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TUESDAY ▸ MAY 12, 2026 ▸ VOL: 11 ▸ ISSUE: 297 ▸ PAGES 12 ▸ ₹2.00

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75 YEARS OF ETERNAL SOMNATH'S REVIVAL | 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF POKHRAN NUCLEAR TESTS

NO POWER CAN MAKE INDIA BOW: MODI

The PM says the tests showed India's 'Shakti' to world, sent shockwaves across the globe and triggered angry reactions from several countries; hails the "courage" shown by the then PM Vajpayee; links the Somnath temple's legacy with India's cultural and national resilience

GIR SOMNATH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday drew parallels to the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, asserting that no power in the world can make India bow or succumb under pressure.

Addressing a gathering at Somnath Amrut Mahotsav, marking 75 years of the inauguration of the restored temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, he said "forces" in the country continue to prioritise appeasement politics over national self-respect. A similar mindset was witnessed during opposition to the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

"While India attained Independence in 1947, the Pran Pratishtha (consecration ceremony) of Somnath in 1951 served as a proclamation of India's liberated consciousness," he said.

Modi stressed that the 'Amrut Mahotsav' of Somnath is not merely a commemoration of the past, but it is also a festival of inspiration for India for the next thousand years.

May 11 is a significant date as it not only marks the consecration of the Somnath temple, but also India's nuclear tests in 1998 under the leadership of then Prime Minister AB Vajpayee, he said. "On May 11, 1998, the nation conducted its nuclear tests. Our scientists demonstrated India's capabilities and potential to the entire world," he said.

What's Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II)?

Pokhran-II, codenamed 'Operation Shakti', was a series of five nuclear bomb tests conducted by India in May 1998 at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan. Led by Prime Minister AB Vajpayee and key scientists like Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, these tests established India as a nuclear-armed state, celebrated annually on National Technology Day on May 11.

Key facts of 'Operation Shakti'

DATES: 3 tests were conducted on May 11, and 2 on May 13, 1998.

VENUE: Pokhran Test Range (PTR), located in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

TESTS: Involved a 45-kiloton thermonuclear device (Shakti I), a 15-kiloton fission bomb, and three sub-kiloton devices, , ensuring radioactive containment.

SIGNIFICANCE: Marked India's technical capability and resulted in significant international sanctions and global criticism.

SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP: The tests were a joint effort by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam handled weaponization while Dr. R Chidambaram led the scientific design.

REACTION: Pakistan conducted its own nuclear tests shortly after in May 1998.

PM recalls global pressure

Modi said the nuclear tests "sent shockwaves across the globe" and triggered angry reactions from several countries. "Who is India to conduct nuclear tests? The world reacted with anger," the PM said, referring to the international response following the Pokhran tests. "Global powers mobilised to suppress India after the tests. Various sanctions were imposed, and every passage to avert a potential economic crisis was blocked," the PM said.

> Greetings on National Technology Day. We recall with pride the hard work and dedication of our scientists, which led to the successful tests in Pokhran in 1998. That landmark moment reflected India's scientific excellence and unwavering commitment. Technology has become a key pillar in building a self-reliant India.
> **Narendra Modi, PM**

Many countries would have succumbed under such circumstances, but India stood firm, he said. "Anyone else would have faltered. When the world's major powers launch such a massive offensive, it becomes difficult to find a path ahead. But, we are built differently," Modi asserted.

India went ahead with two more nuclear tests on May 13, 1998, despite mounting pressure from the international community, he noted. "On May 11, our scientists had completed their task. However, on May 13, two more nuclear tests were conducted. This demonstrated to the world just how unwavering the political will of India truly is," Modi said.

'Somnath India's eternal flame'

GIR SOMNATH

PM Modi said Somnath reminds us that no nation can remain strong unless it is connected to its roots.

Modi released a special stamp on the completion of 75 years of the inauguration of the restored Somnath temple, located in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district. "Invaders attempted to erase the splendour of the Somnath temple; this temple was demolished time and again, yet it kept being rebuilt," he said.

Some "forces" in the country continued to prioritise appeasement politics over national self-respect, Modi alleged, adding that a similar mindset was witnessed during the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

He said politics had often been played over issues linked to national pride and identity, citing the reconstruction of the Somnath temple after Independence.

"There are countless examples across the world where foreign invaders destroyed sites linked to a nation's identity. Whenever people got an opportunity, they restored their heritage and upheld their dignity," said the PM in his address.

Modi said Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and India's first President Rajendra Prasad made immense efforts to rebuild the temple, but faced opposition from then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The "forces" promoting appeasement politics were still active in the country, he said. "We witnessed this same phenomenon during the construction of the Ram temple and the manner in which it was opposed," Modi said.

Spirit of Bharat that never gave up

The revival of the Somnath Temple is a story of resilience, with its modern reconstruction in 1951 led by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel symbolizing the restoration of India's cultural pride after centuries of destruction. Often called the "Eternal Shrine," it was destroyed six times and rebuilt, with the current temple marking 75 years of reconstruction in 2026. In May 11, 2026, the nation celebrates 75 years since its reopening, a milestone referred to as the 'Somnath Swabhiman Parv,' marking the 1,000-year anniversary of the 1026 CE attack by Mahmud of Ghazni.

Siddu hits back at Modi, seeks clarity on 'betrayal' remark

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks in Bengaluru accusing the Congress of betraying its long-time ally, the DMK, in Tamil Nadu.

"Had PM Modi remembered the history of betrayal by his own party, he would certainly not have accused the Congress party of betrayal," Siddaramaiah said in a statement. He alleged that several regional parties that had allied with the BJP in the past were later sidelined or "betrayed", naming the BSP, TMC, DMK, AIADMK, PDP, Shiv Sena, Akali Dal and National Conference.

Siddaramaiah said the PM must clarify whether his recent speech in Bengaluru was made as the Prime Minister of India, the state BJP president, or as the Leader of Opposition in Karnataka, saying confusion has arisen among the public over the intent of his remarks. He alleged that although the PM addressed the Congress government in the state, his comments reflected failures of his own government at the Centre and "political frustration" over the BJP's condition in Karnataka.

He said past prime ministers such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee maintained dignity in public discourse, and accused Modi of lowering the stature of the office through what he described as "street-style speeches and rhetoric driven by hatred and jealousy".

He further said the PM, who once promised a $5 trillion economy and claimed rapid national development, was now advising citizens to cut consumption of essentials such as petrol, edible oil and fertilisers, questioning what model of development this represented.

Suvendu Adhikari govt begins Bangladesh border fencing push

KOLKATA

West Bengal's first BJP government in decades wasted little time signaling its priorities.

At its inaugural cabinet meeting on Monday, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari announced a string of decisions that reversed several policies of the previous administration and moved swiftly to honour electoral commitments made to the voters, including a pledge personally made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Once of the major decisions was to approve transfer of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for fencing the Bangladesh border.

Addressing the media after his first Cabinet meeting at Nabanna, Adhikari said the decision addresses a long-standing security concern along one of India's most porous international borders and brings the state into alignment with the Centre's border management priorities. The process of land transfer will start on Monday and complete within 45 days, he said.

Agnimitra Paul, Khudiram Tudu, Ashok Kirtania, and Nisith Pramanik were present at the meeting.

Other key decisions taken in meet

Implementation of Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme

In a significant policy reversal, the new cabinet approved the implementation of the Centre's flagship Ayushman Bharat Health Scheme in the state, a programme that the previous TMC government had declined to adopt. "The 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme will begin in Bengal. The 'Jan Arogya Yojana' and other schemes of the Prime Minister will also be implemented here," Adhikari said.

BNS will now be in force in Bengal

Adhikari also announced that the Cabinet had formally approved the implementation of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in the state. He alleged that the previous government had failed to implement the new criminal laws in violation of the Constitution. "The BNS was not previously in force in Bengal. Effective immediately, it will now be implemented," he said.

5-year extension in age limit for school job applicants

In another major decision, the Cabinet approved a five-year extension in the upper age limit for school job applicants, fulfilling a promise earlier made by Amit Shah during the Assembly election campaign. Adhikari said the relaxation was aimed at helping candidates who had crossed the age limit due to the lack of recruitment opportunities in recent years.

Kerala CM impasse: Cong summons ex-state party chiefs to Delhi

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senior Congress leaders from Kerala, including former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee presidents, have been summoned to Delhi for talks on chief minister selection.

The prolonging CM selection by Congress even a week after winning the polls is also witnessing the resentment of coalition partners coming out and BJP continuing to jibe.

Since there are three strong contenders --VD Satheesan, Ramesh Chennithala and KC Venugopal -- for the post, and the UDF allies are divided over their choice of CM, the party high command is in a tough spot to choose a unanimous candidate.

Former Kerala PCC president K Muraleedharan and VM Sudheeran have confirmed that the AICC leadership asked them to reach Delhi for talks. K Sudhakaran, Mullappally Ramachandran and MM Hassan are also being consulted by AICC leadership to reach Delhi. AICC leadership was also learnt to be holding talks with veteran leader AK Antony.

Sources said since the IUML backed Satheesan, the AICC was in a fix in ignoring him as IUML played key role in ensuring thumping victories of Rahul and Priyanka in Wayanad Lok Sabha seat.

G RAM G Act across rural India from July 1

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Monday announced that the Viksit Bharat — Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act will come into force across the country from July 1, replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The new law provides for 125 days of employment to rural households in a year, compared to 100 days under the existing MGNREGA.

INDIA REMAINS SECURE

'India engaging with nations to ensure energy security'

NEW DELHI

India is engaging with multiple countries to ensure uninterrupted energy supplies as tensions continue to escalate in West Asia, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Monday, while maintaining that all Indian seafarers in the Gulf region remain safe.

Addressing a media briefing, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government was holding discussions with several countries to safeguard India's energy security amid the evolving geopolitical situation.

Reiterating India's position on the conflict, Jaiswal said New Delhi continues to advocate dialogue and diplomacy to maintain peace in the region.

The government also said maritime operations linked to Indian interests remain stable despite concerns over shipping routes in the Gulf.

Speaking at the briefing, Opesh Kumar Sharma said authorities were coordinating closely with the MEA, Indian missions abroad and maritime stakeholders to monitor the situation.

India secure, no fuel shortage: Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday chaired the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) to review the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict on India's energy security and assured citizens that the country faces no shortage of petroleum products. The government clarified that the PM's appeal was made in the "spirit of collective citizen participation" and does not reflect any inadequacy of resources. "There is a huge cost being borne by the nation as international crude prices are continuing at very high levels. Fuel conservation can ease this burden," the Defence Ministry release stated. Singh urged citizens to "remain calm and avoid any kind of panic," asserting that concrete steps are being taken to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains.

SC restores Raje Gowda as Sringeri MLA for now

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered status quo in the matter pertaining to the ouster of Congress leader T D Raje Gowda as the MLA of Sringeri constituency and granted him interim relief, directing that he will remain the MLA of the seat for now even as a recent vote recounting led to the BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj being declared the winner.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran directed for keeping in abeyance all the steps taken, pursuant to the Karnataka High Court's order of April 6, 2026, and restored status of Gowda as the MLA in an interim measure.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Mukul Rohatgi and Devadatt Kamat, representing Raje Gowda questioned the validity of the High Court's order.

Senior advocate V Giri, appearing for Jeevaraj, contended that he had already been administered the oath as the MLA by the Speaker.

The court issued notice to the respondents Karnataka government, Election Commission and others and ordered status quo in the matter, saying democracy can't be hijacked like this. In 2023 Karnataka Assembly election, Raje Gowda had originally defeated Jeevaraj by a slender margin of 201 votes.

However, the high court, acting on an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, directed reverification and recounting of postal ballots on April 6. The recount exercise, however, dramatically altered the result.

What's the issue?

- In 2023 Karnataka Assembly election, Raje Gowda had originally defeated Jeevaraj by a slender margin of 201 votes.
- However, the High Court, acting on an election petition filed by Jeevaraj, directed reverification and recounting of postal ballots on April 6. The recount exercise, however, dramatically altered the result.

"Teachers must continuously learn to shape students' holistic growth"

MYSURU

Renowned applied mathematician Dr. Gururaj Sridhar called upon teachers to make it their mission to provide children with genuine quality education, continuously upgrade themselves through constant learning, and thereby play a significant role in the holistic development of students.

Speaking after inaugurating a two-day workshop organized for the teachers of Nypunya Educational Institution CBSE Campus and RT Nagar ICSE Campus, marking the commencement of the new academic year 2026–27 here on Monday, he observed that primary education is facing several challenges in this era of rapid technological advancement. No matter how advanced technology becomes, it is impossible to imagine primary education without traditional teaching methods.

Dr Gururaj noted that only the necessary amount of technology should be used while keeping traditional education at the forefront. Education must be designed keeping in mind the opportunities and challenges children will face in the future. In this direction, Nypunya Educational Institution should function like a laboratory for primary education, with teachers dedicating themselves fully and engaging like research scholars in the teaching-learning process.

The event was attended by Naipunya Institution President R. Raghu, Principal Guruprasad, Education Coordinator Mrs. Shwetha K.S., and members of the teaching faculty.

MMC&RI holds community through cancer awareness marathon

MYSURU

In a remarkable display of community participation and public health awareness, the Cancer Awareness Marathon organised by Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) in association with Bharath Hospital and Institute of Oncology (BHIO) in Mysuru on Sunday.

This is as part of major prefest initiative for the upcoming Vagus'26 and saMMsCRithi'26 festivals.

Conducted under the theme "Running for Awareness, Racing for Cure," the marathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, doctors, healthcare professionals, and members of the public. In the open category events, Purushotham, who is studying M.PED at the Department of Physical Education, University of Mysore secured first place in the men's category, while Divyashree, who is studying I PU at Vivekananda PU College, emerged victorious in the women's category.

The marathon was inaugurated by Prabhu I B, DCF (Wildlife). Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the importance of fitness and social responsibility in modern society. Marathons promote health and fitness. In today's fast-paced world, many people struggle with stress and unhealthy lifestyles. Running encourages physical strength, mental peace, and self-confidence. It brings people together from different backgrounds, united by one purpose — to keep moving forward.

Dr Santosh Kumar KN, Consultant Medical and Haemato Oncology and BMP Physician, Bharath Hospital and Institute of Oncology (BHIO) emphasised the importance of cancer awareness, prevention, and early diagnosis. "As a medical oncologist, I witness how cancer affects not only patients but entire families and communities. Prevention, early detection, and timely treatment can save lives. Every step taken today represents awareness, hope, and action," he noted.

He further explained that regular physical activity during cancer treatment and survivorship significantly improves recovery, treatment tolerance, and overall quality of life.

Organisers stated that the marathon was aimed not merely at promoting sports, but also at encouraging preventive healthcare, regular health screenings, and healthier lifestyles among the public.

The event also saw the presence of Police Commanding Officer Gangadhar, Dr Sarvesha Raje Urs, Dr S Chandrashekhar, Dr Shashidhar, Dr Asha M B, Dr Sachin, Dr Rajapur Parashuram, Dr Sumanth and Dr Hemanth, along with faculty members, students, and organisers of Vagus'26 and saMMsCRithi'26.

Office-bearers of eight Alliance Clubs take oath

Indigenous-led Alliance International growing rapidly

MYSURU

Alliance International, an organization founded and led by Indians, is growing rapidly, said International Secretary Nagaraj V. Bairy.

He was speaking after inaugurating the installation ceremony of newly elected office-bearers of eight clubs under the Association of Alliance Clubs International, District-255-S, held on Sunday. The clubs included Vijayanagar, Netaji, Vallabhbhai, Krishnadevaraya, Tilak, Siri Sambhrama, Siri Phoenix, and Siri Saptaswara.

He said that while most other international organizations were founded and led by foreigners, Alliance Clubs was established and is being led at the international level by Indians. Despite being established only recently, the organization has expanded extensively within a short span of time, he added.

More than 40 clubs each have been established in Mysuru and Mandya districts over the past two years. Similar growth is being witnessed in several other districts as well. He observed that the comparatively lower membership fee and the greater freedom and opportunities available for social service activities were the major reasons behind the organization's rapid growth.

District Governor Mahabaleshwar Bairy was the chief guest, while senior journalist Anshi Prasannakumar attended as the guest of honour. Akash Bairy presided over the function.

Former District Governors S. Venkatesh and Siri Balu, Second Vice District Governor N. Gangadharappa, District Cabinet Secretary C.B. Shrisheil, Treasurer Indira Venkatesh, Third Vice District Governor Shalini Nagaraj, Public Relations Officer Krishnoji Rao, Ambassador Shobha Siri Balu, Regional Presidents D. Mahadev and Dr. K.B. Lingaraju, Zonal Presidents Srinivas, Venkatesh, and K.K. Jayaram, along with several office-bearers and members, were present at the event.

Mothers Inspired Nalwadi, Shivaji and Vivekananda: Maddikere Gopal

MYSURU

Mothers have been the source of inspiration for great personalities including Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, Shivaji Maharaj and Swami Vivekananda, said District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Maddikere Gopal.

Presiding over the Mother's Day celebration jointly organized by Mahila Vishesha, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat and Association of Alliance Club here on Sunday, he said said that inspired by his mother, Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar built the Kannambadi Dam, Marikanive Reservoir and several other developmental projects. Shivaji Maharaj protected the nation from enemies, while Swami Vivekananda spread the message of brotherhood across the world. Everyone to always remember and care for their mothers till the end of their lives.

"Woman is strength. Mother herself is God. If one has a mother, no other God is necessary. Yet, many people forget the sacrifices of their mothers and leave them in old-age homes. Hearing their tearful stories is painful. No mother should face such a situation, and no children should lead a life of such betrayal," Gopal said.

Referring to the current global situation, he said nobody wants war, yet powerful nations such as America and Russia are waging wars against countries like Iran and Ukraine. Perhaps the leaders of those nations were not guided properly by their mothers, or they are no longer listening to what their mothers taught them in childhood. Efforts should immediately be made to stop wars across the world.

Senior journalist Amshi Prasannakumar inaugurated the programme. Association of Alliance Club Saraswathipuram President S. Venkataravanappa, talking doll artiste Suma Rajkumar and dentist Dr. Payal were the chief guests.

Kannada Sahitya Parishat General Convenor Mooguru Nanjundaswamy, Treasurer G. Prakash and others were present. Educationist and programme organiser H.V. Subbarao welcomed the gathering and delivered the introductory address.

On the occasion, Manasvini Pradeep of Vijaya Vittala Vidyashala, who secured second rank in the SSLC examination in the state, and Vinutha of K.R. Nagar B.S. Madappa Institution, who secured third rank, were felicitated by the District Kannada Sahitya Parishat. Talking doll artiste Suma Rajkumar was also honoured.

Lab technician Vasantha, Meena, Lakshmi, Dr. Payal and others were felicitated on behalf of Mahila Vishesha organisation.

234th Annual Sandal Urus of Tipu Sultan on May 16

MYSURU

The 234th Annual Sandal Urus Shariff celebrations of Hazarath Tipu Sultan Shaheed will be held on May 16, at 11.30 am at the historic Meelad Bagh on Ashoka Road in Mysuru.

In a press release here, Tipu Sultan Welfare and Urus Committee Secretary Afroz Pasha said that the committee has been organising the Urus celebrations for the past 42 years and this year's event will be conducted under the supervision of Sir Qazi of Mysuru Hazarath Moulana Mohd. Usman Shariff Saheb. The programme will be held under the auspices of Karnataka Housing, Minorities Welfare and Waqf Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and former Minister and MLA Tanveer Sait. Mirza Jamsheed Baig Ashrafi, spokesperson of the DCC Minority Department, will anchor the programme.

Among the chief guests are MLAs Harish Gowda and Rizwan Arshad, KPCC spokesperson Lakshman, Mysore District Waqf Board Advisory Committee Chairman Azeez Ulla Ajju, advocate R.S. Anand, industrialist M.F. Jamsheed, Tippu Sultan Welfare and Urus Committee President M.S. Mukhram, and several political, religious and community leaders.

Guest of Honour invitees include religious heads, Sufi leaders, Congress leaders, Waqf Committee members and office-bearers of various organisations from Mysuru, Bengaluru and Srirangapatna.

Following Fatha Khani and Duwa, the Sandal procession accompanied by Fukras, Darvesh, Sufi groups and Duff performers will commence from Meelad Bagh and pass through Ashoka Road, St. Philomena's Church Circle and Rajkumar Road before reaching Bada Makan at Tipu Circle, where it will join the Tipu State Waqf Sandal procession.

Gold Work tables: Assn members submit memorandum

MYSURU

Gold work tables used in the manufacture of gold and silver ornaments have reportedly been stolen from several jewellery workshops in Kumbar Keri, Garadikeri and Kurubakeri areas of Mysuru city, creating concern among traders and workers in the sector.

According to office-bearers of the Mysore Jilla Chinna Mattu Belli Abhivrudhi Sangha, the thieves allegedly targeted the tables placed near shop entrances and carried out the thefts in broad daylight.

Association Honorary President Raviprakash, President Golden Suresh, Vice President Ramesh, General Secretary Guru Diamond, along with office-bearers Annayyachar and Shivakumar, met Mysuru City Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime and Traffic) K.S. Sundarraj and brought the matter to his notice. They also sought guidance and suggestions regarding preventive measures.

Inspector Lolakshi of Lashkar Police Station was present during the meeting. Police officials advised the association to convene a meeting of gold and silver workers and traders to discuss precautionary measures and create awareness to prevent such incidents in future.

Mother's Day celebrated at home for aged in Mysuru

MYSURU

Members of Chamundeshwari Yuva Balaga celebrated World Mother's Day meaningfully at an old age home in Hootagalli by performing Paada Puja (washing and worshipping the feet) of elderly mothers, distributing fruits and honouring them.

Speaking on the occasion, social worker Chinnamballi Mahadevu said that a soldier who protects the nation, a farmer who provides food, and a mother who gives birth are the most important pillars of the world. As society advances scientifically and people rise to higher positions, neglect of parents who nurtured and raised their children is increasing. Everything is being measured in terms of money. Parents who deserve love and care in their old age are instead being sent to old age homes after paying money. Deprived of their children's affection, they suffer emotionally in their twilight years. In such circumstances, one wonders what is the purpose of celebrating World Mother's Day and Father's Day.

He further said that creation consists of ten categories including plant life, animal life, human beings and minerals. Human beings, blessed with intelligence and discrimination, should make their lives meaningful by striving for the welfare and development of other forms of life, he added.

KPCC member Nazarbad Nataraj and social worker Chinnamballi Mahadevu were present on the occasion.

Mysuru Division celebrated 70th Railway Week

MYSURU

The Mysuru Division of South Western Railway successfully celebrated the 70th Railway Week 2025 here. The programme was inaugurated and presided over by Divisional Railway Manager of Mysuru Division, Mudit Mittal.

On the occasion, Railway Service Awards 2025 and DRM Appreciation Awards were presented to employees in recognition of their outstanding service, dedication, and contribution to the efficiency and development of Indian Railways. A total of 22 employees received the Railway Service Award, while 55 employees were honoured with the DRM Appreciation Award.

As part of the celebrations, the SWRWWO/Mysuru Division also organised a felicitation programme to honour senior and retired railway employees for their dedicated service.

Several shields for excellence in maintenance and performance were also presented during the event. Chikkajajur station received the award for the Best Maintained Major Station, while Honnavalli Road station was recognised as the Best Maintained Small Station. Shivamogga Railway Colony and Molakalmuru Railway Colony were adjudged the Best Maintained Large and Small Colonies respectively.

The Mysuru–Sainagar Shirdi Weekly Express (Rake No. 16217/18) received the award for the Best Maintained Rake, while the Subrahmanya Road Running Room was awarded as the Best Maintained Running Room. Chitradurga received awards for the Best Maintained Traction Sub-Station and SSE/Signal section. Hassan division won the SSE/Telecom award, while Sakaleshapura received the Best Accident Relief Train award.

The Traction Operations section was presented with the Innovation Shield. The office of the Mysuru Mechanical Division received the Best Maintained Office award. The SSE/P.Way/Krishnarajanagar section was honoured as the Best P.Way section. The Coach and Wagon Rail Madad War Room was recognised as the Best Divisional Control unit.

Students of Mysuru Lalitha School added colour and vibrancy to the celebrations with cultural performances.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager Shamma Hameed, branch officers, recognised unions and associations, members of SWRWWO/Mysuru Division, employees, award winners and their family members, and railway staff attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Railway Manager Mittal congratulated the award winners and praised the dedication and hard work of railway employees and emphasised the importance of safety, punctuality, and teamwork, and encouraged staff to continuously strive for excellence and contribute to the growth of Indian Railways.

The event reflected the Mysuru Division's commitment to recognising excellence, encouraging innovation, and motivating employees towards dedicated service to the nation.

"RESTORE, DON'T DEMOLISH"

MP YADUVEER URGES GOVERNMENT TO PRESERVE HISTORIC DEVARAJA MARKET

MYSURU

A strong appeal was made to the State Government to abandon any plans to demolish the historic Devaraja Market and instead immediately begin restoration and rejuvenation works in accordance with the recent High Court judgment protecting the heritage structure.

Speaking during his visit to the market at the invitation of traders here on Monday, Mysuru-Kodagu Lok Sabha Member Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar welcomed the court order directing that the market should not be demolished and rebuilt, but restored in its existing form. The judgment was the result of a long struggle carried out by traders, local residents and heritage activists since 2005. This movement began much before many of them joined it. The people here fought continuously for years, and today's judgment has come because of their persistence.

Calling upon the government to respond positively, he urged authorities not to waste public money on further legal appeals. Taxpayers' money should not be spent on repeatedly approaching courts and creating setbacks for traders. The government should respect the judiciary, respect local traders and take up restoration work immediately. Thousands of small traders depend on the market daily for their livelihood. Besides shopkeepers operating inside the market, many vendors around the premises sell vegetables, groceries and other small products.

Describing the market as an inseparable part of Mysuru's identity, Yaduveer said the historic marketplace had served generations of traders and citizens. Mysuru is a globally recognised heritage city. This market is useful to everyone and is deeply connected to the cultural and economic life of the city.

Referring to funds already earmarked by the government, he said the amount sanctioned earlier — reportedly around ₹90 crore for the market and additional funds for the Lansdowne Building — should be utilised for restoration rather than demolition and reconstruction.

On concerns regarding temporary shifting of traders during renovation, he said experts had already suggested a phased restoration model where one section at a time could be vacated and repaired while business activities continued in the remaining portions.

Historic markets across the world have been preserved through phased restoration. The solution is not difficult; what is needed is political will.

Questioning why the structure had been allowed to deteriorate, he said neglect over decades had led to the present condition. If proper restoration had been undertaken when traders first demanded it in 2005, this prolonged struggle would not have become necessary.

He also referred to the controversial demolition of the rear portion of the market in the past, alleging that portions were pulled down overnight using drilling equipment. Despite heavy rains and flooding later, the remaining structure continued to stand strong. "The building is structurally strong. Modern facilities can easily be incorporated through restoration without affecting its heritage value," he said, adding that traders were ready to cooperate with a phased redevelopment process.

The MP further stressed the need to restore smaller traditional markets like Vani Vilas Market and called upon the government to develop additional marketplaces in other parts of Mysuru to accommodate the city's rapid growth. "Mysuru must preserve its heritage while continuing development. Many cities in India and abroad have successfully balanced both. Chandigarh and Amritsar are examples where heritage structures have been restored beautifully," he said.

The MP pointed out that India now possesses both the expertise and technology required for heritage conservation and urged the government to seize the opportunity created by the favourable court judgment to permanently preserve Mysuru's iconic heritage structures.

Restore the historic Devaraja Market immediately: Ex-Mayor Swamy

MYSURU

Former Mayor Sandesh Swamy has stated that the city's iconic Devaraja Market is not entirely a heritage structure but has called for its immediate renovation.

In a statement, he said the market, spread across nearly seven acres, has only the outer square-shaped structure measuring around 15 feet in width classified as a heritage building. The nearly five-acre central portion covered with asbestos sheet roofing is an ordinary structure, he clarified.

Swamy explained that during his tenure as Mayor, when K.S. Raykar was the Commissioner, a proposal had been prepared to address the city's parking problems. The plan included construction of a two-storey cellar parking facility for vehicles and a two-storey complex with around 2,000 modern shops at an estimated cost of ₹39 crore. A blueprint had also been submitted to the government, but the project was shelved after it failed to receive approval.

He noted that a large number of domestic and international tourists visit the Sayyaji Rao Road and Dufferin Clock Tower area in the heart of Mysuru city. In such a situation, the dilapidated condition of Devaraja Market and the unauthorised vending around it have become an eyesore and reflect administrative negligence. The situation has also created hurdles for smooth movement of pedestrians and vehicles.

According to him, although there are officially 750 to 800 traders in the market, several issues have arisen because some shop owners have sublet their premises to others. Legal disputes arising from these issues have further delayed the renovation project.

Referring to the recent appeal made by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking renovation of Devaraja Market and Lansdowne Building, Sandesh Swamy urged the Chief Minister to take personal interest in conserving Mysuru's heritage structures. The government must appoint a dedicated team under an expert officer for the preservation and restoration of heritage buildings constructed during the royal era in Mysuru.

SC VERDICT BRINGS RELIEF TO DEVARAJA MARKET TRADERS

MYSURU: The recent Supreme Court verdict directing the preservation and repair of the historic Devaraja Market and Lansdowne Building has been welcomed by traders and heritage conservationists in Mysuru.

In a press release here on Monday, Pahalwan S. Mahadev, President of the Mysore City Corporation Devaraja Market Tenants Association, said the Devaraja Market, built during the reign of the Maharajas, was envisioned as a central marketplace where citizens could access all essential commodities under one roof. This market has been a symbol of Mysuru's heritage and pride.

He alleged that for nearly three decades, the Mysuru City Corporation and the State Government had neglected the maintenance of the market and repeatedly attempted to demolish the structure by terming it dilapidated, without providing adequate repairs, cleanliness or civic amenities. As a result, traders had been facing constant inconvenience and uncertainty.

Mahadev noted that a committee of heritage experts had challenged the Karnataka Government's demolition plans by approaching the Supreme Court. The association expressed happiness over the apex court's verdict ordering the restoration and preservation of both the Devaraja Market and the Lansdowne Building in their existing form.

The association thanked the Heritage Experts Committee and all organizations involved in the legal battle for safeguarding the historic structures. Gratitude was also expressed to Pramoda Devi Wadiyar and Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar for their support to the conservation movement.

Mysuru Cycle Day held at Bake Point Circle

MYSURU

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), in collaboration with GIZ and ESAF Foundation, successfully organized the 4th edition of Mysuru Cycle Day on Monday at Bake Point Circle, Saraswathipuram in Mysuru.

This initiative is being implemented under the Sustainable Urban Mobility – Air Quality (SUM-ACA) programme, which aims to promote environmental awareness, improve public health, and encourage sustainable urban living.

A 5 km cycle rally and various Open Streets activities and games were organized as part of the program. The event witnessed strong community participation and enthusiastic self-initiated involvement from community members, contributing to making the streets more vibrant and people-friendly.

Mysuru Cycle Day has steadily evolved into an impactful platform for promoting active lifestyles, cleaner air, and vibrant public spaces across the city. With each edition, the event has received growing support and participation from key stakeholders, including the Mysuru City Police, Traffic Police, NCC, educational institutions, community groups, and various government departments.

The organizers expressed their gratitude to all participants, volunteers, community partners, and supporting organizations for making the event a success.

Applications invited for admissions to Govt ITI College

MYSURU

The admission process for the August 2026 academic session has commenced at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru. Online applications have been invited from eligible candidates for various engineering and non-engineering trades available under the NCVT-affiliated CTS and employment scheme. Admissions will be granted based on Merit-cum-Reservation criteria. Applicants must have completed a minimum age of 14 years as on August 1, 2026. Depending on the trade, candidates who have passed or failed SSLC, or those who have passed Class 8, are eligible to apply. Interested candidates from any part of the state may submit applications online through the department's official website www.cite.karnataka.gov.in or through the Help Desk centre available at the institute before May 15. Admission is free for women candidates. For more details, candidates may contact 9945616088, 9900378488, 8050481033 or 9448958363, the Principal of the Govt ITI said in the release.

SAVE MYSURU'S GREEN LEGACY

Citizens unite against felling of 350 trees for flyover project

MYSURU

A strong wave of concern over the proposed cutting of nearly 350 trees for the construction of a flyover near the Manipal Hospital Junction echoed across Mysuru on Saturday, as environmental experts, activists, and local residents gathered under the leadership of Parisarakkaagi Naavu (We for Environment) to inspect the trees and discuss ways to protect them.

Addressing the gathering, veteran environmental activist Major General (Retd.) Vombathkere recalled that Mysuru's iconic tree-lined roads were a visionary contribution of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, who believed citizens should treat trees as invaluable natural wealth. The City Improvement Trust Board (CITB), established in 1903, had prioritized the development of broad green avenues.

Referring to the the Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, 1976, introduced during the tenure of D. Devaraj Urs, which aimed to regulate indiscriminate tree felling and protect urban greenery that reduces pollution, moderates climate, minimizes noise, and enhances the city's beauty.

PUCL member Mansoor Ahmed expressed concern that cutting trees in densely populated areas like S.S. Nagar and Siddiqui Nagar would worsen air pollution caused by increasing traffic congestion. Instead of removing existing trees, he urged the government to explore alternative solutions.

Speaking on behalf of the Reap Benefit organization, Sara Mishra emphasized the need for sustainable development. Public opinion must be considered before implementing major projects. The ecological loss caused by cutting 350 mature trees cannot be compensated merely by planting saplings or relocating trees.

Advocate Mannan Khan stressed that development and environmental conservation should progress together, while noted environmentalist Bhanu Mohan called upon youth to shoulder the responsibility of protecting nature.

Professor Kalachannegowda pointed out that road widening projects in several parts of Mysuru had successfully preserved trees, expressing confidence that united public action could save the trees at the proposed flyover site as well.

Environmental activist Sanjay Dattatri warned that Mysuru was gradually turning into "another Bengaluru or Chennai" due to unchecked urbanization.

Farmers' Association State President Badagalapura Nagendra criticized the unplanned expansion of cities and assured full support for environmental movements protecting natural resources.

Parisarakkaagi Naavu General Secretary Parashuramegowda clarified that the organization was not opposing the flyover itself, but objected to the large-scale destruction of trees. "Only the absolutely necessary road expansion should be undertaken. Let us work together to preserve Mysuru's environment and heritage," he appealed.

A resolution demanding that authorities provide the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and hold consultations with environmental experts and organizations before proceeding was proposed by activist Ravi Bale and unanimously approved.

The meeting concluded with passionate slogans calling for the protection of trees, lakes, hills, animals, and birds, reinforcing Mysuru's enduring commitment to environmental conservation.

Campus Drive for Apprenticeship Training on May 25

MYSURU

A campus drive for the selection of candidates for apprenticeship training by Toyota Kirloskar Motor will be held on May 25 at 8.30 am at the Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-07.

Candidates aged between 18 and 25 years are eligible to participate in the recruitment drive. Candidates who have passed ITI trades such as Fitter, Turner, Welder, Machinist, Tool & Die Maker, Diesel Mechanic, Mechanic Motor Vehicle, Mechanic Electric Vehicle, Electrician and Electronic Mechanic are eligible to attend. Senior candidates graduating in 2026 may also participate. For further information, candidates may contact Vice Principal Bopaiah on 9945711787 or Training Officer Nagesh on 9945616088, according to the release.

QUICK READ

365th free eye screening camp organised in Bengaluru

CH NEWS ,BENGALURU
The 365th free eye screening camp was organised under a citizen healthcare initiative in collaboration with Udayabhanu Kalasangha and Narayana Nethralaya in Bengaluru. Speaking at the programme, Gayatri Chandramurthy, Vice President of Vinayak Educational Institution, praised the organisation for extending free healthcare and educational support to the public. Dr Ayash examined beneficiaries attending the camp, offered medical advice and guided patients requiring cataract surgery. More than 120 people participated in the programme. Several association office-bearers and members were present during the camp. Organisers announced that the 366th free eye check-up camp and the 285th free dental camp will be held on May 24. Interested participants can register at the association office.

Bengaluru police book 575 for drunk driving

CH NEWS ,BENGALURU
Bengaluru Traffic Police intensified enforcement against traffic violations across the city during the past week, booking 575 motorists for drunken driving offences. Police said that between May 4 and May 10, 2026, officials inspected a total of 45,272 vehicles of different categories as part of a special enforcement drive. The crackdown mainly targeted drunken driving violations, with checks continuing at several locations across Bengaluru. Authorities said strict action was being taken against offenders to improve road safety. Apart from drunk-driving cases, police also registered 179 cases related to over-speeding and negligent driving.

Clash in Devanahalli over water filter installation dispute

CH NEWS, BENGALURU
A clash broke out between two groups in Savakanahalli village of Devanahalli taluk over the installation of a water filter at a crematorium. According to villagers, some residents opposed the proposal, arguing that the water filter should instead be installed in the middle of the village for public use. The disagreement soon escalated into a heated argument and later turned violent. Villagers alleged that Muniraju and others were assaulted by Hemanth, Rajesh and Krishna during the altercation. They further claimed the attackers were associates of S.P. Muniraju. Muniraju was initially shifted to Devanahalli Government Hospital before being referred to Bengaluru for advanced treatment after reportedly suffering a serious chest injury.

Chennai Vande Bharat tops Bengaluru routes as newer services witness slower growth

South India's first Vande Bharat continues attracting passengers with strong occupancy, sustained impressive revenues.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

More than three years after its launch, the Vande Bharat Express connecting Mysuru and Chennai via Bengaluru continues to remain the most successful semi-high-speed rail service linked to the city.

According to recent data released by South Western Railway, the Mysuru-Chennai Vande Bharat service (20607/20608), inaugurated on November 11, 2022, has emerged as the highest revenue-generating Vande Bharat route operating through Bengaluru.

The Chennai-Mysuru service recorded an average booking rate of 119.8 percent during the 2025-26 financial year. More than four lakh passengers travelled on the route during the period, helping the railways generate Rs 41.2 crore in revenue.

The return service from Mysuru to Chennai also witnessed strong demand, carrying nearly 3.9 lakh passengers and earning Rs 39.6 crore.

Encouraged by rising passenger demand, Indian Railways later introduced a second Vande Bharat service on the same corridor. The additional Mysuru-Chennai train (20663/20664) has now become the most overbooked Vande Bharat routed through Bengaluru, recording an impressive 127 percent booking rate while transporting more than two lakh passengers.

The Bengaluru-Hyderabad Vande Bharat service has also maintained healthy patronage. The Yeswanthpur-Kacheguda route, now operating with 16-coach rakes, continues to maintain around 90 percent occupancy in both directions and contributes nearly Rs 76 crore in annual combined revenue.

Railway officials said the Hyderabad route initially witnessed occupancy levels crossing 100 percent before the expansion to longer rakes slightly reduced the booking percentage while keeping overall earnings stable.

However, not all Vande Bharat services operating through Bengaluru have achieved similar success.

The recently introduced Bengaluru-Belagavi Vande Bharat has struggled to attract consistent ridership. The Belagavi-Bengaluru service recorded the lowest booking percentage among Bengaluru-linked Vande Bharat routes at 64.3 percent and generated only Rs 8.9 crore between August 2025 and April 2026.

Though occupancy from Bengaluru to Belagavi improved to around 86 percent, officials admitted the route is yet to become a preferred choice among travellers.

Railway sources attributed the relatively weaker response partly to the evening departure schedule from Belagavi, which affected passenger convenience.

Despite the slow start, SWR officials expressed optimism, noting that bookings on the Belagavi route gradually improved from 55 percent to 67 percent over successive months.

Officials pointed to the Kalaburagi Vande Bharat service as an example of gradual success, stating that its occupancy had risen from an initial 42 percent to nearly 93 percent over time.

Residents Allege Neglect as Munekolalu Ward Roads Remain Dug Up for Months

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Even as Bengaluru's civic agencies continue prioritising arterial and sub-arterial road development, residents in several neighbourhoods say ward-level internal roads remain severely neglected. One such example is Munekolalu in East Bengaluru, where locals claim damaged internal roads have remained unrepaired for nearly a year after pipeline works were completed.Residents allege that several stretches inside the locality were dug up for underground pipeline works but have not been restored, leaving behind uneven surfaces, potholes and dusty roads that have made commuting difficult for motorists and pedestrians alike.

New Parties Eye Civic Poll Gains over Bengaluru's Mounting Urban Challenges

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Even though Bengaluru's long-pending civic polls are yet to receive an official schedule, several new-er political parties have already launched aggressive groundwork campaigns, hoping growing public anger over potholes, garbage disposal, flooding and poor infrastructure will help them gain electoral space beyond the traditional BJP-Congress contest.

With the State Election Commission indicating preparedness to conduct elections for the five city corporations proposed under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), emerging parties have begun identifying candidates, strengthening booth-level networks and increasing outreach programmes across wards.

The Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP) has announced plans to contest nearly 100 wards and claims it is aiming to win at least 50 seats. Party founder and general secretary Srikanth Narasimhan said the organisation has witnessed steady expansion, especially in east and south Bengaluru, where it already has a stronger volunteer base.

"Our structure encourages workers to remain connected to grassroots civic issues rather than merely pursuing positions. In many parties, capable leaders are sidelined. In BNP, the focus is on community engagement," he said.

Responding to criticism over actor Sudha Belawadi contesting from the Kengal Hanumanthaiah ward in JP Nagar, Narasimhan rejected suggestions that the party was depending on celebrity appeal.

"She has consistently raised civic concerns in the locality. She is contesting because she is actively involved with residents' issues," he added.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) also claims to be gaining traction, particularly in west and central Bengaluru. According to party leaders, around 125 to 130 applications have already been received from aspirants interested in contesting the elections.

Naveen Iyer, an aspirant from Rajajinagar, said the party is positioning itself as an alternative focused on transparency and governance reforms.

"Successive governments led by Congress and BJP have failed to address corruption and civic mismanagement. We want educated candidates, youth and women to participate actively in governance," he said.He added that party workers have been assisting residents in filing complaints through the BBMP Sahaaya app and resolving local civic grievances.

Another emerging outfit, Karnataka Rashtra Samithi, said it has already finalised 47 candidates through internal selection processes and plans to contest in as many wards as possible once the election schedule is announced.

BSWML plans fresh tenders for three major dry waste processing facilities

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited is preparing to float fresh tenders worth Rs 125.5 crore for the construction of three large Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) aimed at scientifically processing dry waste generated across the city.The proposed facilities are expected to handle a combined 1,226 tonnes of dry waste per day and form a crucial part of Bengaluru's strategy to reduce dependence on landfills while strengthening recycling and segregation systems.Officials said this would be BSWML's third attempt to award the projects after the previous two tender rounds failed to attract bidders."We had no bidders for the earlier tenders. We will soon invite fresh bids again," a BSWML official said.The proposed MRFs will come up at Tharahunase, Subbarayanapalya and Doddabidarakallu. Among them, the Tharahunase facility will be the largest, with a processing capacity of 826 tonnes per day at an estimated cost of Rs 76.4 crore.The remaining two facilities at Subbarayanapalya and Doddabidarakallu will each process 200 tonnes daily and are estimated to cost Rs 20.7 crore and Rs 28.4 crore respectively.The projects will be implemented under a turnkey design-build-transfer model. Contractors will be responsible for designing, constructing, installing and commissioning the facilities within 12 months from the date of award.According to BSWML, Bengaluru currently generates nearly 6,500 tonnes of solid waste every day, excluding waste produced by bulk generators.Unlike conventional dumping yards, the new MRFs are planned as mechanised waste-processing hubs equipped with advanced segregation technology including conveyor belts, trommels, vibratory screens, magnetic separators, air classifiers, shredders and balers.Officials said the facilities are intended to improve recycling efficiency, maximise recovery of reusable materials and produce Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) from non-recyclable dry waste.The proposed plants will also feature pre-engineered sheds, storage areas, weighbridges, RFID-enabled scanners, odour-control systems, leachate collection tanks and digital monitoring mechanisms to improve accountability and waste tracking. BSWML said the initiative aligns with the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which stress scientific waste processing and prohibit untreated garbage from being dumped into landfills.

The projects are being proposed under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.

While Bengaluru currently operates around 112 dry waste collection centres, officials said the proposed MRFs are designed to process significantly larger waste volumes and improve deeper segregation before recyclable materials are supplied to recycling industries.

Central Bengaluru Corporation Clears Several Fallen Trees

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Following heavy rain, hailstorms and strong winds in Bengaluru, the Forest Division of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation has intensified efforts to clear uprooted trees and fallen branches across the city. Development Commissioner Daljit Kumar said officials have been working on a war footing to restore normal movement and ensure public safety.According to officials, several roads witnessed disruptions after trees and large branches collapsed due to the adverse weather conditions. In many places, fallen trees blocked roads and affected vehicular movement. Daljit Kumar stated that civic workers immediately cut and shifted fallen trees and branches to the roadside to enable smooth traffic flow. He added that the removal of all debris is being carried out on a priority basis.Officials said that within the limits of the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, a total of 136 trees and 269 branches have fallen since April 29 due to rain and strong winds.

East Bengaluru Launches Special Drive against Footpath Encroachments

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru East City Corporation has launched a special enforcement drive to clear footpath encroachments and illegal roadside occupations across several wards in the city. The initiative aims to improve pedestrian safety, ease traffic congestion and restore public spaces for free movement, said Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar.According to officials, increasing encroachments by shops, roadside vendors, temporary sheds, parked vehicles, construction materials and advertisement boards have severely obstructed pedestrian pathways in many areas. As a result, pedestrians are often forced to walk on busy roads, increasing the risk of accidents and traffic bottlenecks.The Additional Commissioner stated that the special drive is being carried out in phases across the Bengaluru East City Corporation limits to ensure better public convenience and road safety.

To strengthen the operation, dedicated teams have been deployed in every ward. Each team includes four marshal staff, 10 labourers, three tractors and one JCB machine. The drives are being supervised by Ward Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers concerned.During the encroachment clearance operations conducted between April 27 and May 10, officials removed several obstructions affecting pedestrian movement. These included roadside stalls, pushcarts, unauthorised parking, shop extensions, illegally dumped construction materials and unauthorised advertisement structures.The special drive covered major roads and areas falling under Hoodi, Ramamurthy Nagar, Horamavu, Vijnanapura, Varthur and KR Puram divisions. Officials said the corporation intends to continue similar operations in other parts of the city to reclaim public spaces and improve accessibility on footpaths.Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar appealed to traders, vendors and the public not to occupy footpaths or roadside spaces illegally. He urged citizens to cooperate with civic authorities by voluntarily removing encroachments and ensuring pedestrian pathways remain obstruction-free.

He also warned that strict action would be initiated against violators found repeatedly encroaching upon public pathways and roadsides in violation of civic regulations. Residents in several areas have welcomed the move and expressed hope that continuous monitoring and enforcement will help keep footpaths accessible and safer for pedestrians in the long term.

JUSTICE AT LAST

Family gets compensation 14 years after LPG blast

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Fourteen years after a devastating LPG cylinder blast left five members of a family injured, including two young girls who suffered severe burn injuries, the victims have finally secured partial relief through the consumer dispute redressal mechanism.

The case dates back to June 4, 2012, when Aboobacker attempted to fix a regulator onto a newly delivered LPG cylinder supplied by Shivaneel Gas Agency, an authorised distributor operating under Indian Oil Corporation.

According to records, a sudden gas leakage occurred during the process, triggering a massive explosion and fire inside the house. The flames rapidly engulfed the kitchen and spread across the residence, leaving five family members with serious burn injuries.Among the worst affected were four-year-old Masumsha, daughter of house owner Mohammed Kalandar Shah, and seven-year-old Fahma, daughter of Aboobacker. Both children suffered nearly 39 percent burns in the incident.The remaining victims — Aboobacker, his wife Sarfana and their relative Bifathima — sustained burn injuries of 8 percent, 14 percent and 11 percent respectively.All five victims were initially treated at the government hospital in Aldur before being shifted to multiple hospitals, including MG Hospital, Holy Cross Hospital and Kasturba Hospital in Chikkamagaluru. They remained hospitalised between June 4 and June 18 and incurred heavy medical expenses during treatment.Following the incident, police registered a complaint and officials from Indian Oil Corporation and Shivaneel Gas Agency inspected the accident site. The matter was also reported for compensation settlement under the public liability insurance policy held by Indian Oil Corporation with National Insurance Company.

Priest Kidnapped, Assaulted After Couple Elopes in Byadarahalli

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A disturbing case of kidnapping and assault linked to an elopement has been reported from Byadarahalli in Bengaluru, where a temple priest was allegedly abducted and brutally beaten as retaliation for his younger brother's relationship with a young woman.

According to police, Shivakumar, a resident of Byadarahalli, was in a relationship with a woman whose family opposed their affair. The couple recently left home together, triggering anger among the woman's relatives.Police said the woman's father, Basavaraj, along with a few relatives, allegedly targeted Shivakumar's elder brother Kotresh to pressure the couple into returning. Kotresh works as a priest at a temple in Byadarahalli.The accused reportedly approached Kotresh and told him they were taking him to a police station. However, instead of taking him there, they allegedly forced him into a car and transported him to an unknown location where he was tied up and assaulted.

QUICK READ

Lokayukta holds public grievance meet at taluk office

CH NEWS,Mandya
On May 13, a public grievance meeting will be held at Maddur taluk office premises from 11 am to 1:30 pm by the Karnataka Lokayukta department to receive complaints from the public regarding corruption and delays in government work in Mandya district. Officials including Sunil Kumar HT DySP, Battara Gowda BP, Ravikumar M, and Lepaksha Murthy RG Inspector of Police will attend the meeting. The meeting will focus on receiving complaints about corruption in government and semi government offices and cases of undue delay in official work. The district Lokayukta Superintendent of Police said in a release that citizens can

Emotional farewell held for Minister Sudhakar in Chitradurga

Administration managed funeral crowds smoothly; police ensured security; leaders praised Sudhakar's humble service and developmental vision continues

CH NEWS,CHITRADURGA

Several leaders gathered in Chitradurga to pay their last respects to late Minister D. Sudhakar. His mortal remains were brought to the stadium where officials, ministers, and citizens offered tributes. Senior leaders including Priyank Kharge, Chaluvaraya Swamy, Randeep Singh Surjewala, Nasir Hussain, and others attended. They expressed deep sorrow and comforted the grieving family members during the emotional ceremony. Speaking at the event, Surjewala said Sudhakar will always be remembered for his public service. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah approved financial assistance of up to fifty thousand rupees for medical expenses.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar became emotional while remembering his long friendship with Sudhakar. He said Sudhakar supported farmers and worked for major irrigation and development projects in the region. Leaders across party lines praised his simple life, honesty, and dedication to public welfare work. The funeral procession will take place with full government honours and follow Jain traditions. His son Suhas will perform the final rites at Muktidham in Challakere on Pavagada Road. Thousands of people gathered to see their beloved leader one last time and pay respects. Rahul Gandhi also spoke to the family over phone and assured them of support. Government officials said Sudhakar's contribution to state politics and development will remain significant forever. The event ended with emotional scenes as leaders and public bid farewell to him. District administration said arrangements were made smoothly for large crowds and dignitaries. Police ensured security and managed traffic during the entire funeral procession. Many social leaders called Sudhakar a humble leader who served people sincerely. Ministers said his work in agriculture and infrastructure will guide future projects. People expressed hope that his vision for development will continue through ongoing schemes.

Party workers described him as a leader close to both ground workers and common citizens. Officials confirmed that government will review safety measures in public events after the incident. The atmosphere remained heavy as emotional tributes continued throughout the day in Chitradurga district. Leaders said his absence will be deeply felt in Karnataka politics for years ahead. Sudhakar legacy will inspire future generations forever.

Palace Illumination, sound and light show cancelled till May 12

MYSURU

In view of the state mourning being observed across Karnataka till May 12 following the demise of Planning and Statistics Minister D. Sudhakar, the Sound and Light Show held daily from 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm at the Mysuru Palace premises has been temporarily cancelled till May 12.

The Mysuru Palace Board Deputy Director stated in a press release that the Sound and Light Show will resume as usual from May 13 onwards.

Dr Kumar prioritises drinking water supply issues

CH NEW,SMANDYA

District Collector Dr Kumar has directed officials to take urgent steps to solve drinking water problems in Mandya district on priority in both rural and urban areas. He chaired a meeting of the District Disaster Management Authority at the Deputy Commissioner's office to review the situation. Officials informed that private borewells are being used in fifteen villages facing shortage and water tankers are supplying water in two villages. He said officials must visit affected villages regularly to assess the real situation and resolve issues immediately. He instructed that tube well yield should be checked and precautionary measures must continue until the end of summer to avoid shortage.

Tahsildars, taluk panchayat executives and rural water supply officials were told to prioritise drinking water supply and prevent public complaints. The Collector said there is no shortage of funds and asked departments to act quickly without delay. He warned that illegal lifting of water from rivers and lakes using pump sets worsens the drinking water problem and must be stopped immediately. He directed officials from revenue, police, and electricity departments to act together and disconnect power supply in illegal pumping areas near river banks. He also asked for water purification units to be tested regularly and for water quality checks to ensure safe drinking water for citizens. Officials said there will be no fodder shortage in the district for forty weeks, providing relief to farmers and livestock owners. In the meeting, several senior officials including deputy commissioners, engineers, and departmental heads attended and discussed coordinated measures to address the drinking water crisis across Mandya district.

Restoration work revives historic British-era DC office in Mangaluru

MANGALURU

One of Mangaluru's prominent colonial-era buildings, the old Deputy Commissioner's office near State Bank, is undergoing extensive restoration after years of neglect and deterioration. The heritage structure, constructed during British rule, is being repaired with an allocation of nearly Rs 2 crore, with authorities aiming to preserve its original architectural identity.

The renovation work, initiated around six months ago under the Dakshina Kannada Nirmithi Kendra, has made significant progress, particularly on the roofing section. Old and damaged wooden supports, rafters and roofing components have been removed and replaced with new materials, helping stabilise the structure ahead of the monsoon season. Authorities said the building had remained abandoned for many years, resulting in major structural damage, especially in the rear portion. Sections of damaged walls and roofing at the backside have been dismantled, while efforts are now concentrated on preserving the central part of the building and restoring it in its traditional style.Officials noted that the building's wooden flooring remains surprisingly strong despite its age. Skilled carpenters are currently repairing old wooden doors, windows, railings and cabinets, while cracks and damaged sections on the walls are also being restored. The long-term plan is to convert the heritage property into a museum, art gallery and public exhibition centre, making it an important tourist attraction in the coastal city. However, officials clarified that the present funds are only sufficient for emergency restoration and structural repair works.

AXIS BANK

REGISTERED OFFICE: "Trishul", 3rd Floor, Opp. Samartheshwar Temple, New Law Garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad–380006. CIRCLE OFFICE: No.122/146 Ward No.3, 1st Floor, Near Mandakini Hospital, New Cotton Market, Hubli–580029

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following locker hirers have availed locker facilities from our Bank. They have failed /neglected in making payments towards the locker rentals to the Bank or not operated the locker for a considerable period. The Bank has issued several notices to the below-mentioned locker hirers requesting them to make payment towards locker rentals or operate the locker and/or close the locker facility(ies). The communication in this regard was either duly acknowledged by them and/or returned undelivered. This is the final notice to notify that if the below-mentioned locker hirers fail to pay the arrears of locker rentals to the Bank or do not operate the locker on or before **10-08-2026,** the Bank shall break and open the locks of the locker and take inventory of any items lying in the locker. All such items will be kept in the Bank's custody until such time the arrears of rent along with interest, expenses, charges, etc. are paid to the Bank. This will be done as per the Banking Law and Practice and at locker hirer's risk and responsibility. If any cash is found in the locker, the Bank reserves the right to adjust the same against the outstanding dues and it shall be treated as proper discharge on part of the Bank and no claims, whatsoever, shall be entertained thereafter in this regard. For the outstanding dues of locker rentals, the Bank reserves its right to proceed legally against the locker hirer(s) for recovery of its dues.

S. No.	Locker No.	Name of the Locker Hirer(s)	Address	Amount Due (INR)	Amount Due from
Bagalkot Branch, Karnataka:- Nagappana Katte, Opp. Kerudi Hospital, Extension Area Road, Bagalkot-587101, Karnataka.					
1	2067	Laxman Balaraddi	S/o Maruti ,Tulasigeri Ward No 4, Bagalkot, Karnataka, India, 587204	24,103.69	19-Oct-20
2	2033	Praveen B Ballolli	C/O Shri Balloli B J, Plot 118, Teacher Cly, Nr Hubli Sir House, Vidyagiri, Bagalkot, Karnataka, India, 587102	33,954.95	25-Oct-23
3	2070	Venkappa L Hunashikatti	At Po Khajjidoni, Tq-Bagalkot, Bagalkot, Karnataka, India, 587101	30,998.46	26-Dec-19
4	2015	Venkatesh K Gulaganji	#2167 Shirur Bagalkot, Bagalkot, Karnataka, India, 587120	28,397.75	16-Nov-19
Basavakalyan Branch: Main Road, Basavakalyan Town, Beside Holkunde Hospital, Dist. Bidar, Karnataka, Pin 585327					
5	19	Gayan Reddy S/o Lacha Reddy Palaredde	R/O Narayanpur Tq Basavakalyan Dist Bidar, Basavakalyan, Karnataka, India, 585327	18,812.5	11-Jul-19
6	9	Ambadas	Bandeppa Kamble 88/1 Indra Colony Manthal Basavakalyan Matala Bidar Main Road, Bidar, Karnataka, India, 585419	2,1875	29-Jan-19
7	4	Dattatray Mare S/o Vithalredd	Chilwantwadi, Latur, Kalmugali, Maharashtra Water Tank, Latur, Maharashtra, India, 413522	18,812.5	23-Apr-19
8	6	Santosh Digambar Biradar	S/o Digambar Biradar Mamdapur Tambhaia Latur, Nilanga, Maharashtra, India, 413607	6,187.5	14-Sep-23
9	56	Jadhav Gunderao	At Gutti Post Mirkhal Tq Basavakalyan, Basavakalyan, Karnataka, India, 585327	12,562.5	03-Jun-21
10	52	Mahmad Ajimoddin	S/o Sardar Shaik 158 Mudbi Mudbi Bidar Basavakalyan, Bidar, Karnataka, India, 585437	18,675	27-Feb-19
Belgaum Branch: Geethanjali Plaza, CTS No.2672, Khanapur Road, Tilakwadi, Belgaum, Karnataka, PIN: 590006					
11	199	Paramanand D Natikar	C/O Dharmappa Site No 54f 5th Cross Near Channamma Circle Hebbal 2nd Stage, Mysore, Karnataka, India, 570016	80,590.95	07-Jul-21
12	125	Daneshwari Suresh Padekar	Cts No.3513 Shop No.2 Ground Floor Duradundeshwar Complex, Sankeshwar, Belgaum, Karnataka, India, 591313	47,520	23-Nov-18
13	62	Shanti Bharat Purohit	Plot No 22 Jai Ambe Building 2nd Floor Swami Vivekanand Colony Tilakwadi Belgaum, Belgaum, Karnataka, India, 590006	12,023.25	29-Jan-22
14	50	Basavraj C Kotagi	At Post Kadrolli Tal Bailhongal, Belagavi, Karnataka, India, 591102	28,397.75	13-Feb-20
Bellary Branch, Karnataka: Door/S No/8, Main Road, Siddartha Complex, Parvathi Nagar, Bellary 583 103, Karnataka.					
15	134	P.Sunitha	D/o Krishna Murthy Bandi Talur Road Extention Near Gurukul Concept School Srinagar, Ballari, Karnataka, India, 583101	1,30,045.5	06-Mar-20
16	197	Prasad	S/o J.Shankar Rao 5th Ward Gouler Hatty, Bellary Bellarynear Huligemma Temple, Ballari, Karnataka, India, 583101	82,971	17-Aug-19
17	218	B M Parvathi Reddy	Plot No.05 Ward No.01, Sy.No.245/A5/A6/A7 Talur Road Sneha Colony, Bellary Near Bus Stop, Ballari, Karnataka, India, 583101	81,121.5	20-Jan-21
18	47	Pusphavathi	W/o J.S.Anjineya, 162, Behind Petrol Bunk, Siruguppa Road, Havambavi, Bellary, 583101	52,903.33	16-Jul-20
Bidar Branch, Karnataka: No.9-9-3 (Old No/ 9-9-2), Seenu Complex, B/V/B/ College Road, Gandhi Gunj, Bidar 585 401, Karnataka					
19	1018	Madan Lal Agarwal	C/o Vasu Dall Industries Basawanagar H.N.9-8-384 Basawangar, Bidar, Karnataka, India, 585403	28,397.75	03-May-19
20	1020	Shankerlingay ya Kawdi	S/o Gurupadayya Kawdi, 8-9-285/38b, Bidar Devi Colony, Bidar Opp Gurudwara Gate, Bidar, Karnataka, India, 585401	27,710.21	25-Jul-25
Bijapur Branch: Ground Floor, CTS 4/1, BLDE Road, Bijapur, Dist Bijapur, Karnataka Pin: 586101					
21	1020	Gururaj M Koulagi	Gururaj M Koulali Girish Nagar Bagalkot Naroad, Bijapur, Karnataka, India, 586109	73,178.54	03-Jul-20
22	3041	Mallanagouda B Biradar	Ganapati Chowk, Bijapur, Bijapur, Karnataka, India, 586101	30,053.95	26-Dec-19
23	3042	Rakhee Praveen Gilda	W/O Praveenkumar Gilda Ward No 14, Station Road Near Lic Office Mukund Nagar, Bijapur, Vijayapura, Karnataka, India, 586104	19,647.75	07-Jul-21
24	3066	Madhumati Dhavaleshwar	Akki Colony Ashram Road Bijapur, Vijayapura, Karnataka, India, 586103	33,199.75	08-Jan-19
25	3072	Dinesh Madhukar Subhedar	C/O S.H.Mishrakoti Bagalakot Road Raghavendra Colony Bijapur, Bijapur, Karnataka, India, 586101	75,110.85	13-Dec-18
26	4020	Ashok Alegavi	H No 62 Treasury Colony Takke Road, Bijapur, Karnataka, India, 586101	25,875	03-Jun-22
Channarayapatna Branch: Ground Floor, SN Complex, Near New Bus Stand, Channarayapatna, Dist. Hassan, Karnataka, Pin 573116					
27	21	C R Swamy	#10, Hassan, Kerechikenahalli, Hassan, Karnataka, India, 573116	15,743.75	19-Nov-20
28	28	Mahesha M K	S/o Late M G Krishna Murthy #223 Ground Floor Kasturiba Road M G Extension Sri Manjunatha, Hassan, Karnataka, India, 573116	18,506.25	08-Aug-19
Chickmagalur Branch, Karnataka: Basavanahalli Main Road, Opp. Rangana Choultry, Next To Taluk Office, Chickmagalur 577 101, Karnataka.					
29	1011	Rukshinda Banu	W/o C F Mohammed Ismail Shariff Street Chikmagalur, Chickmagalur, Chikmagalurmadina Masjid Near, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, India, 577101	78,421.5	26-Feb-19
30	2015	Shivaprasad Tp	Spiritius Soutions P Ltd T 7 3rd Floor No 40 Lakshmi Complex Kr Road Fort 1, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560002	90,679.97	28-Jan-21
31	4018	M Vivekanand Machaiah	S/O Jagdish Achaia 688 1st Floor Cbi Road Ganganagar Bangalore, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560032	1,31,636.2	13-Dec-18
Chikodi Branch: Chikodi, Karnataka, No. 5253, Indiranagar, N M Road, Chikodi, Dist. Belgaum, Karnataka, Pin 591201.					
32	1005	Rajashree B Kotiwale	170 Karoshibasa Stynad Haththirad Badiger Oni Mane Nam 1/A 23-143 28-42/A 58/Ba Karoshibus Stand, Belgaum, Karnataka, India, 591226	18,687.5	28-May-19
33	1025	Shri Yarriswami Credit Souhard Sahakari Nyt	Tq Chikodi Dst Belgaum, Chikodi, Karnataka, India, 591201	1,8812.5	23-Apr-19
Chitradurga Branch, Karnataka: Reddy Jana Sangha (R)Building, Ground Floor, B D Road, Chitradurga, Karnataka, Pin 577501.					
34	98	Abdul Nawab	S/o Obedulla K Holalkere Road Behind Milath School Neharunagara 1st Cross, Chitradurga, Karnataka, India, 577501	28,397.75	15-May-19
35	76	S.Ibrahim	Ward No.03 New Ajjampura Road Birur Chickmagalur Chickmagalur, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, India, 577116	57,665.66	12-Jul-19
36	77	S.Ibrahim	Ward No.03 New Ajjampura Road Birur Chickmagalur Chickmagalur, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, India, 577116	57,665.66	12-Jul-19
37	72	S.Ibrahim	Ward No 03 New Ajjampura Road Birur Chickmagalur Chickmagalur, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka, India, 577116	54,917.95	12-Jul-19
38	6	Fasiulla	House No.424 8th Cross, 2nd Stagedavalagiri Ba Davane577501, Chitradurga, Karnataka, India, 577501	42,176.05	03-Jun-21
39	149	Lingaraju H L	Coparuathammachitranilayanr Jnabharathi School Holakere Rd 1st Stage, Davalagiri Badavane, Chitradurga, Karnataka, India, 577501	19,647.75	22-Sep-21
Dharwad Branch: Karnataka: Cts No/ 307/27 B, Sri Siddalinga Complex, Near Toll Naka, Pune-Bangalore Road, Dharwad 580 001, Karnataka.					
40	1012	Vyas Tejaskumar Kirtibhai	Holi Chaklo Chanasma Town Patan Holi Chaklo, Patan, Gujarat, India, 384220	1,21,067.2	15-May-19
41	2006	Abdul Hameed Khan A Pathan	S/o Abdul Majeed Khan Pathan 4th Cross Jumma Masjid Behind Tashiladar Clinic Dharwad, Dharwad, Karnataka, India, 580001	51853.31	03-Jul-20
42	1013	Rekha N Koparde	Plot No 134 Shri Rajesh Cotton APMC Yard, Dharwad, Karnataka, India, 580001	1,65,622.9	18-Oct-24
Gangawati Branch, Karnataka: Ground Floor, Sri Rama Complex, D/No/ 2-4-43&2-3-188, L G Road, Gangawati 583 227, Dist/ Koppal, Karnataka.					
43	19	B.Aruna Kumari	W/o Mallikarjun PO, Hosakepa Village Taluk Gangawati, Gangavathi, Karnataka, India, 583227	15,671.99	16-Nov-24
44	97	Nagaraj Swamy	M/s HV Pharma Pharma Central Distributors Pharma Plaza, Gangavathi, Karnataka, India, 583227	49,200.88	24-Dec-25
Gokak Branch: Karnataka: Cts No/ 3200/A-1/A & B, Matru Chaya Building, Bus Stand Road, Gokak 591 307, District Belgaum, Karnataka.					
45	1034	Shree Jagadguru Renukacharya Mahila Pattina Sahakari Sangha Niyamita	#1937 Somwarpeth Gokak, Belagavi, Karnataka, India, 591307	18,812.5	23-Apr-19
46	2046	Ashok Mallappa Mugalakhod	Gokak Sugars Ltd At Post-Kolavi Tq Gokak, Belagavi, Karnataka, India, 591312	1,21,39.61	11-Jun-20
47	1024	Vidyavati Keshav Bhovi	188/2-3 Gokak Tq-Gokak At Post Gokak, Belagavi, Karnataka, India, 591307	18,812.5	14-Nov-19
Gulbarga Branch: DTO Building, Super Market, Gulbarga-585102.					
48	4013	Sharanabasap pa	C/O Dr B G Jawali Chandrashekar Patil Nagar Aiwan E Shahi, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India, 585102	12,678.75	24-Apr-24
49	4020	Savita C Kurani	W/O Jaganath C/O V S Kembhavi Near P S Hospital Shakti Nagar, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India, 585101	63,483.75	11-Jun-20
50	5021	Manorama Ramnivasji Mantri	C/O Veeranna S Gurur 8/3517 Fazalpur Ayyarwadi Bamboo Bazar Gulbargabamboo Bazar, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585104	64,880.88	24-Apr-24
51	4038	Abhishek Kamble	S O Baburao Kamble H No 4 601/54e 5th Cross Mahatma Basaveshwar Nagar Opp Kannada Convent School Gulbarga, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India, 585105	12,678.75	19-Dec-24
52	2036	Rafeeq Ahmed	C/O Mohamad Ali, Flat No 1 3rd Floor Hussain Lifestyle Appartment Hussain Garden MSK Mill, Gulbarga, Kalaburagi, Karnataka-585103, India	50627.2	23-Aug-21
53	2025	Dr.Vikram Sidaraddi	Plot No 29 Sharana Prasad, Sharan Nagar, Gulbarga Behind Ganesha Temple, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585103	107523.8	03-Jul-19
54	1007	Seetaram B Kulkarni	S/O Bhagawanthrao Kulkarni Plot No 14 Laxmi Narasimha, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India, 585102	135466.9	19-Oct-19
55	5017	Parashuram	Plot No 101, Tq Afzalpur Gulbarga, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585101	83,617.52	12-Feb-21
56	4028	Mounesh	R/O # 14 Laxmi Nivas Post University Kusnoor Gulbargaa Laxmi Nivas, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India, 585106	34,413.75	14-Jun-19
57	2009	Sri Sharanappa Konnin	St.No 10 Vv Hostel Complex Sedam Road Govt Hospital, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585102	71,082.46	06-Jul-19
58	1021	Archana Wakode	Plot No 3 S B Temple Road N V Layout Opp N V College Gulbarga, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585103	0	23-May-25
59	1010	Shilpa Patil	W/O Dr Appasaheb Patil H.No 8-1305/130/6, 7 Humanbada Road Opp Tata Show Room Kapnoor Gulbaraganear Tata Show Room, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585104	1,25,138.6	26-Oct-20
60	5011	Sandhya Ramakant Kulkarni	H No 1 892 73 7 Old Jewargi Road Near Gansh Nursing Home Ganesh Nagar Gulbarga, Kalaburagi, Karnataka, India, 585102	1,47,316.3	26-Dec-19
Hadadi Road Branch, Davangere: Sri Veerabhadreshwara Towers, 569/1/2/3/4, Hadadi Road, Davangere, Dist.Davangere, Karnataka, Pin 577004					
61	42	B.Devaraj	No 844/B Taralabalu Badavane 2nd Bus Stop Vidhya Nagar Davangere, Davanagere, Karnataka, India, 577005	91,681.88	18-Mar-21
62	47	B.Devaraj	No 844/B Taralabalu Badavane 2nd Bus Stop Vidhya Nagar Davangere, Davanagere, Karnataka, India, 577005	91,698.36	18-Mar-21
Hassan Branch: Ground Floor, Lalitha Krupa, B M Road, Hassan 573 201, Karnataka					
63	27	Shmshad	W/O Late Anwar Ward No.22, Mehaboob Nagar Hassan, Hassan, Karnataka, India, 573201	53,090.73	07-Mar-19
64	37	Ashok M P Gowda	Behind Karigowda Residency, B M Road, Hassan, Karnataka, India, 573201	1,08,000.3	21-Jun-19
Hospet Branch, Karnataka: D/No/167 & 168, College Road, Opp. Jayaram Hospital, Hospet 583 201, Dist/ Bellary, Karnataka.					
65	4007	P.Harshavardhan	S/O Prabhkar Setty H No 27 A/31 Nc Colony Sandur Road, Ballari, Karnataka, India, 583203	13,0045.5	24-Apr-19
66	1006	Tejpal M Jain	S/o Mangilal Jain, Plot No 21, 1st Cross, Dam Road M J Nagar 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Ballari, Karnataka, India, 583203	36,181.4	07-Feb-19
Ilkal Branch: 4613-1, Karjagi Complex, Bus Stand Road, Ilkal, Dist.Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin 587125					
67	19	Gurumahanta gouda S Patil	# 52 Gorbal Village Tq-Hungund Dt Bagalkot, Ilkal, Karnataka, India, 587125	4,207.5	24-Apr-23
68	9	Anandkumar Rathod	S/o Rekhappa 44 Near Apmc Laxmi Nagar Ward No.7 Tlkal Bagalkot Dist, Ilkal, Karnataka, India, 587125	12,792.5	06-Aug-19
Jewargi Cross, Gulbarga Branch: Plot no.14 & 20, Sy.no.113/3, MSK Mill Main Road, Gulbarga, Dist.Gulbarga, Karnataka, Pin 585103					
69	1038	Vishwanath Kanaji	Plot No 256 Bank Colony Near Mother Teresa Schoolgodutai Nagar, Gulbarga, Karnataka, India, 585102	87,562.35	23-Apr-19
Kalamma Street Branch: KVM Arcade, T S No:282, 283, Ward No:15, Block No:5, Kalamma Street, Bengaluru Road, Bellary-583101.					
70	30	Vikram Jain	S/O : Kanthilal Jain # 234, Bangalore Road 11th Ward Above Nadhuri Dresses, Ballari, Karnataka, India, 583101	90,360.92	03-Jun-21
Koppal Branch: 7-2-162, KHB Colony, Hospet Road, Koppal-583231					
71	112	Somarachary Joshi	Near Water Tank Indrakil Nagar, Koppal, Karnataka, India, 583231	17,930.21	24-Aug-20
72	69	Shankarappa Reddy	Shankarappa Reddy, S/o Gurubasappa Reddy 9-7-673/45 Someshwarakrupa Marishantaveer Colony, Hospet Road, Koppal, Karnataka, India, 583231	12,584.25	23-Apr-19
73	111	Poornima Shivakumar Hakkapakki	W/O Shivakumar Hakkapakki 1-6-570/C Gauimath Road Near Kuvempu School Hakkapakki Colony Hakkapakki Colony, Koppal, Karnataka, India, 583231	18812.5	15-Jul-19
Manvi Branch: Manvi, Karnataka, Municipal No.13-1-66/1/2, Sindhanur Road, Manvi 584123, Dist/ Raichur, Karnataka					
74	2012	P Shivarama Reddy	S/O P Kotireddy H No-49 Manvi Tq-Manvi Dist-Raichur, Manvi, Karnataka, India, 584123	17,548.92	18-Oct-24
Mudhol Branch: Salimath Arcade, Opp. to Town Municipal Office, Bus Stand Road, Mudhol, Dist.Bagalkot, Karnataka, Pin 587313.					
75	11	Sagar Suryavanshi	Sagar Suryavanshi Near Engineering Collage Mudhol 0near Baglkot, Bagalkot, Karnataka, India, 587313	12,792.5	30-Oct-19
76	7	Mahesh Virappa Patil	Chetana Hospital, Mudhol, Ward No 5, Bagalkot*, Mudhol-587313	9290.39	03-Jun-21
Raichur Branch Karnataka: Mpl No.1-10-151 & 152/1, Kubera Palace, Station Road, Raichur 584 101, Karnataka					
77	2024	Kalpana S Hangal	1-10-144-5 Kallur Cly, Station Rd, Raichur, Karnataka, India, 584101	63,532.15	08-Jan-19
78	1009	Rathna Prashanthi	H No 1-3-165-2 Station Area Ward No. 1 Block No. 3, Raichur, Karnataka, India, 584101	1,06,612.2	11-Jun-20
79	2012	Koripilli Ramanjaneyalu	H.No.1-11-72/45, Kakathiya Colony, Raichur, Karnataka, India, 584101	72,816.46	08-Jan-19
80	1013	E Venkat Rao	H.No.1-13-132/13, Daddy S Colony, Raichur, Karnataka, India, 584101	1,34,828.8	13-Dec-18
Saidapur Branch: Saidapur, Karnataka, Saidapur Cross, Mahalingapura So, Mudhol Taluk, Saidapur, Dist/ Bagalkot, Pin 587 312, Karnataka					
81	1068	Dr Prabhudev Andani	S/O Chinnappa 135 Gokak Road Near Bustand Tq Mudhol Mahalingapur (Rural) Bagalkot Near Bustand, Bagalkot, Karnataka, India, 587312	11,055	02-Feb-22
82	1070	Suresh M Biradar	Ward No 4 A/P Belgli Tq Mudhol Dist Bagalkot, Bagalkote, Karnataka, India, 587113	16555	04-Dec-19
Shahpur Branch: Veerabhadreswara Nilaya, Bidar-Bangalore Road, Shahpur, Dist. Yadgir, Karnataka, Pin 585223.					
83	2032	Jyothi	D/O Pullayya Rathod H No A/15 Sughneshwar Nilaya Ganesh Nagar Shahapur Dt Nagar Near Sbi Bank, Shahapur, Karnataka, India, 585223	18506.25	11-Sep-19
Siruguppa Branch: Siruguppa, Karnataka, S E S V K J Pre-University College Compound, Siruguppa 583121, Dist/ Bellary, Karnataka.					
84	1031	Shakuntalamma	S/o Malleshappa Main Road Dhadesugur, Siruguppa, Karnataka, India, 583121	12,562.5	03-Jun-21
Vidya Nagar Branch, Hubli: Plot No. 6/4-C, Venkatadri Heights, Unkal Cross, Vidya Nagar, Hubli, Dist. Hubli-Dharwad, Karnataka, Pin 580031					
85	81	Hardayal Manda	Plot No 115 Haragadde Village Jigani Hobli Jigani Anekal Taluk, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560105	1,16,196.6	11-Jun-20
86	1007	Raja Rameez Bhagwan	49 Raghavendra Colony Alagundagi Chawl Vidyanagar Near Manickbag, Hubballi, Karnataka, India, 580031	63,507.65	07-Mar-19
87	19	Girish Nilugal	MIG-291 Navanagar Hubli Dist Dharwad Navanagar, Hubballi, Karnataka, India, 580025	21,758.28	03-Jun-22
88	37	Premalata Todasageri	# 46 Shri Dattanagar Vidyanagar Hubli, Hubballi, Karnataka, India, 580031	32,685.25	16-Apr-19
Yadgir Branch: Plot Nos.27/1, 27/2, 27/7, 27/8, Mundnal Layout, Station Road, Yadgir, Dist. Yadgir, Karnataka, Pin 585202					
89	3028	Wajeed Shahbaz Badal	S O Haji Abdul Rasool Badal H No 45 63 10 Main Road Chama Layout Near Govt Junir College Correct City Yadgir, Karnataka, India, 585201	12,562.5	23-Jun-21
90	3071	Chandrakanth Poojari	4/5/95 Yadadgir H No 4/5/33 To 4/6/30, Yadgir, Karnataka, India, 585201	18,812.5	15-May-19

Date: 12-05-2026
Place: Hubli

Sd/- Circle BCU Head,
Axis Bank Ltd., Hubli

QUICK READ

Sahana Hadimani takes charge as Kodagu Collector

CH NEWS Madikeri

Dr Sahana S Hadimani has taken charge as Additional District Collector of Kodagu district. She is a 2014 batch KAS officer. Earlier she worked for six years in Bangalore Development Authority as Land Acquisition Officer. Before that she served as Administrative Officer in Shimoga Municipal Corporation. Officials said her experience will help improve administration in Kodagu district. She assumed charge after official transfer order and began duties immediately at Madikeri district office. Karnataka administration welcomed the appointment and wished her success in new role. She will oversee revenue and development work in Kodagu district now onward.

Free sheep farming training for youth announced

Karwar

Free sheep farming training will be given at Canara Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute, Sonnahallipur in Hoskote taluk from third week of May. A 13-day free training camp will teach sheep rearing, goat rearing, cow rearing, poultry, pig farming, horticulture and organic fertilizer preparation. Unemployed men and women aged 18 to 45 from any district can attend. Food, accommodation and training are free, with priority for rural BPL candidates who know Kannada. Certificates will be issued after completion, and interested candidates should attend on May 18 at 9 AM with documents. For details call numbers.

Student dies in road accident near Jewargi

Jewargi

A second PUC student died on the spot in a tragic road accident near Jagadamba petrol pump on the Jewargi–Chigarahalli main road. The deceased has been identified as Adarsh, 18, son of Madivalappa Gurushetty from Yadrami village. He was returning home with friends after completing his exam when the accident occurred. Reports say his hall ticket flew onto the road while he stopped, and as he ran to pick it up, a car coming from Shahpura hit him. He died instantly due to severe injuries. Police have registered a case and investigation is ongoing.

Bidar MLA launches ₹1.5 crore road project

MLA Beldale said roads boost development, employment, and economy; villagers welcomed improvements reducing travel time and improving safety

BIDAR

MLA Shailendra Beldale launched road asphalting work worth Rs 1.5 crore in Bidar district connecting Mannaekhelli village in southern constituency to Nidavancha Hochakanalli and Ranjol Kheni villages. He performed puja for the road work and said the project will improve development in the region and raise living standards of people.

He said the project reflects our constituency our development vision and aims to strengthen village connectivity and public facilities. After completion of the 1.5 crore project transport between villages will become faster safer and more convenient for everyone. Farmers will be able to take their produce to markets easily and students will reach schools and colleges on time. Emergency health services will also improve due to better road access in the villages.

MLA Beldale said roads are not just transport routes but lifelines for development and growth. He added that better roads will increase employment trade activities and overall village economy in the region. He said the government is committed to rural development and such projects are part of long term planning. Local residents welcomed the road work and said it will reduce travel time and improve safety on daily routes.

Leaders from nearby villages were present during the launch and appreciated the initiative taken by the MLA. Officials said the project will be completed soon and will benefit thousands of villagers in the constituency.

The MLA assured that more development works will be taken up in the coming months for better infrastructure. He said every village should get good roads water and basic facilities so that people can live better lives.

Kandakura criticises Congress party over delays

Local leaders praised MLA's development efforts, challenged corruption allegations, and welcomed leaders from several villages into the JD(S) during the event

GURAMATHKAL

Hundreds of young people from different villages in Guramathkal constituency have left the Congress party and joined the Janata Dal (Secular) during a public programme. MLA Sharanagouda Kandakura said the joining drive is only a trailer and more people are expected to enter the party in coming days. He said people are appreciating development work and the party is gaining strong support at the ground level.

He also said that his focus remains on development and public service in the constituency. Addressing concerns over development funds, he questioned Congress leaders about delays in drinking water supply projects in the region. He said he has raised the water issue multiple times in the assembly but has not received proper answers.

Former municipal leaders and local representatives said the MLA is actively working for constituency development and raising public issues. Party workers challenged opposition leaders to provide proof of corruption allegations or come for an open debate. Leaders from various villages including Yargol, Baddepalli, Turkanadoddi, Hirenur and others also joined the JD(S) during the event.

Speakers urged youth not to be misled by political pressure and to focus on building their future. They said the party is committed to development and will continue to support people at all times. Local leaders also said the gathering shows growing support for regional political strength in the constituency.

The event concluded with a call for unity and continued work for the development of the region. MLA Kandakura also criticized Congress leaders over fund claims for Hattikuni Nala modernization and questioned their record. He asked whether a government that has not solved drinking water issues for years can bring large development funds.

District JD(S) leaders said the joining of youth will strengthen the party at the grassroots level in coming days. They added that development work and local leadership are helping attract young supporters from rural areas. The programme saw participation from several party officials, community leaders, and supporters from nearby villages.

Activists alleged illegal lake lease violations, demanded accountability, and vowed continuing protests until Basapura Lake is protected.

Protest continues over Basapura Lake dispute in Koppal

KOPPAL

Advocates and activists continued their protest on the 193rd day over the Basapura Lake dispute in Koppal city. They said the Supreme Court verdict does not mention that the lake belongs to Baldota company. Advocate Raju Bakale told protesters that he is ready to prove the legal facts before authorities. He explained past court experience and said revenue officials wrongly treated the lake as private land.

District Bar Association President A V Kanavi said he read the Supreme Court order carefully. He stated that there is no reference to Basapura Lake in the judgment. He also offered legal help to the District Collector and supported farmers' rights in writing. Environmental groups and villagers demanded a high level investigation into alleged illegal lease decisions. They claimed officials allowed a 30 year lease arrangement ignoring lake protection rules and norms. Speakers said lake conservation laws and Supreme Court guidelines clearly protect natural water bodies. They warned that failure to act could harm water resources and local farming communities badly. Many lawyers and activists joined the discussion and pledged continued support for the movement. The group demanded action against officials responsible, including those who have already retired from service. They said the struggle will continue until Basapura Lake is fully protected and restored.

Speakers also said that the District Administration must ensure transparency in all land records stop encroachment and take immediate steps to restore public confidence in lake conservation efforts through strict monitoring regular inspections and coordination between revenue forest and environmental departments without further delay as demanded by citizens

CPI leaders lead protest on water shortage issue

ALAND

Protests were held in front of the Tehsildar office, Taluk Panchayat office and the municipality on Monday, demanding immediate solution to the growing drinking water problem in the taluk.

Party leaders including CPI state council member Maula Mulla, district secretary Mahesh Kumar Rathod, taluk secretary Aspak Mulla and others led the protest and submitted a memorandum to officials.Protesters said people in many villages including the town are facing severe drinking water shortage and are forced to depend on unsafe and hard water for daily use.

They also said cattle are suffering due to lack of drinking water and demanded urgent action from the government to resolve the crisis.

Daily study key to competitive success era: Hemanth

TUMAKURU

Students can succeed in the competitive era only through daily study, said speakers at a programme in Tumakuru. Hemanth Ramegowda, founder of Novas Private Limited, said students must develop research thinking during college life. He was speaking at the closing ceremony of the two-day Technotia programme held at Sri Siddhartha Technical College.

He said students should think actively and try to solve real life problems with innovation. The event encouraged research culture and new ideas among students. Dr Sunil advised students to improve their projects through deeper research. Principal Dr Mahantesh M Nadakatti said the programme builds confidence and innovation skills. Prizes were given to students for best project presentations at the event. Faculty members and students from all departments participated in the programme.

Organisers said the Technotia programme provides a strong platform for students to showcase creativity and technical skills. They added that such events help students become job ready and solve social problems through technology. College authorities said students should continue using such opportunities for continuous learning and innovation growth. Dr S Renukalatha Academic Dean Dr Manu program coordinator and faculty members supported the event.

Students said the competition motivated them to build better projects and think creatively. We hope such programmes continue to inspire innovation among rural and urban engineering students alike in coming years more.

Bengaluru replaces streetlights with LED agencies system

BENGALURU

Bengaluru North City Corporation has announced new agencies for streetlight maintenance across its limits. The decision is part of a project to replace conventional streetlights with energy efficient LED lights under a public private partnership model approved by the government. Existing streetlight maintenance contracts in several wards have been cancelled from April 30, 2026, and new agencies have taken charge.

The agencies that installed LED streetlights will also handle maintenance work in their respective areas. Citizens are advised to contact the respective agencies or complaint managers for streetlight issues. Ward wise details have been shared for Byatarayanapura Yelahanka Pulakeshinagar Hebbal and Dasarahalli constituencies with assigned companies and phone numbers for assistance.

Complaint managers have been appointed for each agency to ensure quick resolution of issues reported by the public in Bengaluru North. Residents can also use Sahaaya App 2.0 toll free number 1533 or WhatsApp number 948068570 for complaints.

KMDC opens education loans for minority students

KOLAR

Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation has invited online applications for the 2026-27 Arivu Education Loan Scheme for minority students. The scheme supports students from Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi communities excluding Christians. Loans are available for students admitted through KEA conducted CET and NEET examinations. Eligible courses include MBBS, BDS, BE, B.Tech, Architecture, AYUSH, Pharmacy, Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Sciences. Applicants must apply online through the KMDC online portal KMDC online portal before May 30. After online submission, candidates must submit hard copy with required documents to district manager office. Documents include caste and income certificates, SSLC and PUC marks cards, Aadhaar card, photographs, hall ticket and notarised indemnity bond. Two passport size photographs each of student and parents are also required. For details, applicants may contact KMDC District Manager office at 08152-200786. District Manager Shireen Taj said information and guidance will be provided to students seeking educational support under the scheme. Officials said the scheme aims to promote higher education among minority students by reducing financial burden and increasing access to professional courses across Karnataka. Students are advised to complete applications before the deadline to avoid rejection and ensure timely processing of educational loan benefits. Helpline support is available for queries regarding eligibility, documents and application process through district offices. KMDC urged eligible students to use this opportunity and secure education loans for better academic and career growth in future life prospects.

Probe demanded over illegal layout account approvals

BIDAR

Several organisations in Bidar have demanded an investigation against Municipal Corporation Commissioner Nagenna M P over allegations of approving illegal property accounts and digital khatas in unauthorised layouts. A petition submitted to the District Collector on Monday claimed that more than eight hundred account mutations were approved in layouts developed illegally after nearby villages were merged into the Bidar Municipal Corporation.

According to the complaint, agricultural land was converted into residential plots without proper permission and officials allegedly collected between fifty thousand and one lakh rupees for every khata mutation and digital account approval. The petition accused certain officials of misusing rising land prices in newly added urban areas for personal gain.

The organisations alleged that after taking charge of both Zone One and Zone Two, the commissioner approved illegal khatas in Bidar city and surrounding villages, causing heavy financial loss to the government. They demanded formation of a special investigation committee, cancellation of all illegal khatas and suspension of the officials involved in the alleged scam.

Leaders from several groups warned that they would stage a protest in front of the Municipal Corporation office if action is not taken within one week. Representatives from the National Dalit Brigade and Jai Karnataka Rakshana Vedike were present during submission of the petition and urged authorities to ensure transparency in land and property administration.

Activists said citizens are losing trust in the system because illegal layouts continue to receive approvals despite repeated complaints They appealed to the district administration to conduct an inquiry quickly and take action against anyone found responsible for corruption and misuse of powers.

Sorake urges timely delivery of welfare benefits

PADUBIDRI

We all need to forget differences and work together and begin preparations for victory in upcoming elections from today itself said Vinay Kumar Sorake state president of Congress campaign committee while addressing party workers He was speaking at the oath taking ceremony of newly elected Hejamadi Gramin Congress president Prabhod Chandra and office bearers held at Hejamadi Billavara Sangha.

He said party unity is important and workers are the real strength of Congress party and organisation must be strengthened from booth level He added that every worker should take responsibility to ensure that government pro people schemes and guarantee schemes reach every eligible family in villages He urged leaders to inform beneficiaries properly and help them access facilities without delay Several Congress leaders and local representatives.

INFRASTRUCTURE GROWTH DRIVE

Magadi villages receive infrastructure devpt boost

MAGADI

Block Congress President K Krishnamurthy said development works worth nearly ten crore rupees are progressing across Satanur Gram Panchayat in Magadi taluk He spoke after performing puja for new CC roads and drainage projects worth fifty lakh rupees in Donakuppe and Dandinapalya villages Krishnamurthy said development activities are taking place in every village under the guidance of local leaders and MLA H C Balakrishna.

He explained that road and drainage works worth fifty lakh rupees were completed in Halasabele village and another seventy lakh rupee project would begin soon Byranahalli village has already received thirty lakh rupees for roads and drainage while additional works worth forty lakh rupees have been proposed An asphalt road costing one crore fifty lakh rupees has also been completed in Kodahalli village In Satanur village work worth one crore rupees is underway Repairs of Kempasagar Lake are being carried out at a cost of eighty crore rupees while drainage works worth fifty lakh rupees have already been completed in Kempasagar village Krishnamurthy said all projects are being monitored carefully and strict action would be taken against poor quality work He urged leaders and residents to avoid political differences and work together for village development.

Local leader Basanti said new high mast lights sewage facilities drinking water units and student roads have improved public convenience and transportation in surrounding villages Residents attending the programme welcomed the projects and said roads, drainage systems and water facilities would improve life, support farmers, students travel and encourage economic growth across the villages of Magadi taluk.

QUICK READ

Delhi BJP chief trains party workers from North-West dist

New Delhi

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva on Monday inaugurated the two-day residential camp of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Mega Training Campaign conducted for organisational and worker skill development in the North-West district of Delhi. Sharing insights on the principle of nation-first, Sachdeva said, The BJP is truly a party with a difference because our senior leaders nurture party workers and provide them growth opportunities, while BJP workers keep the organisation vibrant through their dedication. Sachdeva addressed the session on worker development, care, and a sense of responsibility. Delhi Minister Ravindra Indraj Singh, District President Vinod Sehrawat, and other senior leaders and workers were also present.

IAF holds 88-hr commemorative run on Op Sindoor

New Delhi

Nearly 600 runners from across all commands of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Army joined an 88-hour Op Sindoor Commemorative Run at New Delhi as a tribute to the milestone of the Indian Air Force's operational history, an official said on Monday. The event, held from May 7 to May 10, commemorated the first anniversary of the 88 hours of successful air operations conducted by the IAF, which demonstrated its capability to deliver decisive, precise strikes. The participants included 600 runners from across all Commands of the Indian Air Force and Indian Army. The event was flagged off on May 7 at 1.05 a.m. by the Air Officer in Charge Administration (AOA) from India Gate and concluded with a flag-in by the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) on May 10 at 5 p.m. at Air Force Station New Delhi (AFND).

Min defends voter roll revision amid Oppn charges

The revision exercise was conducted transparently, he said and denied allegations of corruption or electoral manipulation

MUMBAI

Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Monday defended the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process of electoral rolls, rejecting allegations made by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor that the exercise may have influenced election outcomes in West Bengal and Kerala.

Speaking to reporters, Athawale dismissed claims that the voter verification process was manipulated for political purposes. He stated that allegations alone could not be used to undermine the credibility of the electoral exercise.

There are allegations being made, but no one can silence anyone by making accusations. The SIR process was carried out because the names of deceased people needed to be removed, Athawale said.

The Union Minister explained that the revision process also aimed to identify cases where a single voter's name appeared multiple times in electoral rolls across different locations. According to him, authorities found several irregularities during verification.

It was also done because, at times, one person's name appeared in two, three, or even four places, he said.

Athawale further claimed that officials discovered instances where an unusually high number of voters were registered at the same residential address. While large families commonly share one address, he said there were cases where 20 to 40 names were linked to a single location, making verification necessary.He maintained that the revision exercise was conducted transparently and denied allegations of corruption or electoral manipulation. Referring to the recent election results, Athawale said opposition parties should accept the outcome rather than question the process.It is not as if Mamata Banerjee lost completely; she received a large number of votes. However, the BJP winning such a high number of seats is a major victory for the party, he said.

Athawale also credited Narendra Modi's leadership and popularity for the success of the National Democratic Alliance in the elections. He asserted that electronic voting machines functioned properly and that there was nothing like corruption involved in the process.

Earlier in the day, Tharoor raised concerns about the impact of the SIR process while speaking at the 'India, That is Bharat' roundtable during the Stanford India Conference. According to him, around 91 lakh names were removed from voter rolls during the exercise.

Tharoor claimed that approximately 34 lakh individuals later appealed, stating they were genuine voters entitled to cast their ballots. He argued that only a small number of these appeals were reviewed before polling took place, leaving many unresolved by election day. The rules have required each case to be adjudicated individually, so only a few hundred were adjudicated before the vote, Tharoor said during the conference.

India secure, no fuel shortage amid West Asia crisis: Rajnath Singh

NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday chaired the fifth meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers to review risks to India's energy supply chains and the availability of essential commodities amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Following the high-level meeting, Singh said the government under the leadership of Narendra Modi is taking all necessary steps to ensure uninterrupted supplies of essential goods and energy resources nationwide.

In a message posted on X, the Defence Minister urged people not to panic and assured that concrete measures are being implemented to prevent shortages or disruptions in supply chains caused by the geopolitical crisis in the Middle East.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, retail prices of petrol and diesel remain unchanged despite the recent surge in global crude oil prices. The ministry also stated that sufficient fuel stocks are available at petrol pumps operated by public sector oil companies across India.The statement confirmed that refineries are currently operating at high capacity levels with adequate crude oil inventories. Public sector companies, including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, are maintaining sufficient reserves of petrol and diesel to meet domestic demand.

To support household energy requirements, local production of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) from refineries has also been increased. Officials said public sector oil companies are distributing nearly 50 lakh domestic LPG cylinders every day to ensure uninterrupted cooking fuel supplies.

The government reported that no dry-outs or supply shortages have been observed at LPG distributorships despite the disruptions caused by the West Asia conflict. Online LPG booking rates have also increased significantly, reaching 99 per cent according to official figures.

Authorities have intensified monitoring measures to prevent diversion and black marketing of cooking gas. Around 95 per cent of LPG deliveries are now verified using authentication codes sent to consumers' registered mobile numbers.

Oil companies are also promoting the use of small 5 kg LPG cylinders, particularly among migrant labourers and low-income consumers. Since April 3, more than 10,700 awareness camps have been organised to encourage wider adoption of these cylinders.

As per the Ministry of Defence, India currently possesses 60 days of crude oil reserves, 60 days of natural gas and 45 days of LPG rolling stock, ensuring uninterrupted supply across the country

In addition, the government said progress continues in expanding the Piped Natural Gas network. Around 6.5 lakh PNG connections have already been activated, while infrastructure for an additional 2.66 lakh connections has been completed. Over 7 lakh customers have also registered for new gas connections.

Enforcement agencies have stepped up operations against hoarding and illegal LPG distribution across the country. Officials said more than 2,000 raids are being carried out daily to curb black marketing activities.

'Approach Centre': SC on PIL to regulate institutions imparting religious edu

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday directed the Central Government to take a decision within four weeks on a representation seeking registration, recognition, regulation, and monitoring of institutions imparting secular or religious education to children below the age of 14 years.

A Bench comprising Justices Dipankar Datta and SC Sharma heard the matter and declined to entertain the petition at this stage, observing that the petitioner should first await the Centre's response to the pending representation submitted on February 10.

During the hearing, the apex court referred to an earlier petition filed by the same petitioner in which the court had already granted liberty to approach the competent authority instead of directly seeking judicial intervention.

The first time you came without a representation, we said that once you are seeking a mandamus in terms of the 1974 judgment, you are required to first go to the authority for your grievance. Not much time has lapsed. On February 10, you submitted your representation, the Bench observed.

The petitioner requested the court to treat the present writ petition itself as a representation. However, the Bench rejected the plea, stating that since a formal representation was already pending before the authorities, the competent authority should first examine and decide the matter.

The petition sought directions to both the Centre and state governments to ensure registration, recognition, supervision, and monitoring of all institutions providing secular education or religious instruction to children up to the age of 14 years.

According to the plea, thousands of allegedly unregulated and unrecognised institutions across the country are functioning without adequate oversight, potentially affecting children's right to quality education guaranteed under Article 21A of the Constitution.

Form grievance panels for amicable resolution of bar-bench issues: SC

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday urged High Courts across the country to constitute grievance redressal committees (GRCs) at their as well as district and taluka levels to address issues arising between members of the bar and the judiciary and ensure their amicable resolution in a timely manner.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that such institutional mechanisms, involving members of Bar Councils and Bar Associations, would help foster cordial relations between lawyers and judges and prevent unnecessary escalation of disputes.

We deem it apt to impress upon High Courts to constitute GRCs, which must associate members of Bar Councils/Associations. Such committees be constituted at the district/taluka level also, the apex court observed.

The CJI-led Bench added that the proposed mechanism would help ensure that issues arising between the Bar and the Bench are resolved amicably and effectively at the earliest stage.

The top court made the observations while dealing with two writ petitions registered suo motu in connection with the recent Andhra Pradesh High Court incident involving Justice Tarlada Rajasekhar Rao and a young lawyer during court proceedings.

However, the Supreme Court said that no further directions were required in the matter since the issue had already been amicably resolved at the High Court level through the intervention of the Chief Justice and the Andhra Pradesh High Court Advocates' Association. It appears that the judge sought to draw attention to a precedent which supported him. However, the counsel cited a precedent which the judge felt was not applicable. It was then that the file slipped and fell. Though there was no such intention, the judge construed it as an impropriety. The incident does not warrant any further action at our end, the bench observed, adding that the judge's oral remarks did not culminate in any executable judicial order.

Delhi cops arrest 2 in Rs 10.52 lakh online fraud case

NEW DELHI

A team of Delhi Police's Cyber Police Station, North-East District, has successfully cracked a cyber fraud case involving Rs 10,52,938 with the arrest of two accused persons from Jharkhand.

The case was registered on the basis of a complaint filed by Rakesh Kumar, a 65-year-old resident of the national capital's Meet Nagar, who stated that on April 25, he received a WhatsApp call from an unknown person regarding the updation of KYC details linked to his bank accounts. The caller allegedly instructed him to download a file. Soon after downloading it, Rs 10,52,938 was fraudulently withdrawn from his bank accounts through unauthorised transactions.

According to the complaint, an E-FIR No. 00095/26 dated April 26, 2026, under Sections 318(4), 319, 340, and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), was lodged at the Cyber Police Station, North-East District.

Karnataka Public works Department.
Tumkur Division, Karnataka Telephone: 0816-2272479,
No;EE/KPWD/Tmk/AE.2/T.No.10/2026-27 Dt: 05.05.2026
Invitation For Tenders (IFT) KW-4
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 01 work under 2059-80-053-4-00-200 Depatmental Buildings Maintenance & 01 work under 8443 Deposit Contribution Head of account in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through KPPP-Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The dates are published as below.

(Max Amount Put to Tender Rs.90.47 Lakhs, Min Amount Put to Tender Rs.66.95 Lakhs Max EMD Amount Rs.180951/- & Min EMD Amount Rs.133905/-) 1. Last date for tender information enqueries : 20-05-2026 :17.30. 2. Last date for submission of tender: 21-05-2026 : 16.00. 3. Date of opening the Technical bid: 22-05-2026 : 16.30. 4. Date of opening the Financial bid: 25-05-2026 : 17.00. Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered. Here after Changes with Refference to This Notification will be Notified in E-Portal Only

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
DIPR/TUM/61/KSMCA/2026-27 PWD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK
HRBR Layout Branch, 59 Subbanapalya, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043,
Mob : 8925951554, Emai id: iob1554@iob.in

Notice is hereby given to the persons concerned and public in general that the persons named under this notice have availed the facility of safe deposit lockers at the above mentioned branch of Indian Overseas Bank. The respective branch has already addressed notices/reminder letters by registered post with acknowledgment due (AD) to locker hirers at the address available as per our Bank records with a request to remit the arrears of Locker rent. The said letters were returned. Despite of these notices, the locker hirers have not contacted the branch and have not remitted the locker rent arrears as demanded by the bank. Below named Locker hirers/Legal heirs of locker hirers are requested to consider this as the **BREAK OPEN NOTICE** and contact the Branch concerned with necessary documents and remit the locker rent arrears within **15 days from the date of publication of this notice** failing which the Bank will break open the locker without any further notice or intimation at the cost and sole risk of the hirers or their legal representatives/heirs.

Sl. NO.	Locker	Locker Rent Arrears & Late fee Charges	Locker & Address
1	5	13,679+ GST+Penalty	**Mr. Narayana TV & Mrs. Ananthalakshmi** **Address :** #29, Vijaya Bank Colony, Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043
2	39	35,000+ GST+Penalty	**Mr. Ramesh M & Mrs. G. Anitha** **Address:**229/2B, Behind ST. George College, OMBR Layout, Bangalore-560033
3	47	19,566+ GST+Penalty	**Kishore Reddy M** **Address :** 124/2, 3rd Main Ashwirwad Colony, Horamavu, Bangalore-560033
4	66	12,700+ GST+Penalty	**Mrs. Mamata Mahesh & Mr. L. Mahesh Kumar** **Address :** 32,3RD Cross, Horamavu Main Road, Bangalore-560033
5	81	9400+ GST+Penalty	**Mr.T.G.Lobo & Mrs.Sunitha** **Address :** No.18, Divine West, Mallappa Layout, Agara Main 'Road, Babusapalya,Bangalore-560043
6	161	13679+ GST+Penalty	**Mr.Ramasagar Reddy** **Address :**124/2, 3rd Main Ashwirwad colony, Horamavu,Bangalore- 560033
7	175	11600+ GST+Penalty	**Mr. Debojyothi Das** **Address :** No.313,10th cross, 6/1 Main HMT Layout,RT Nagar, Bangalore- 560032
8	226	21200+ GST+Penalty	**AR Kavitha** **Address :** No.14,4th Main Road, Horamavu Main Road, Kalyan Nagar,Bangalore- 560043.
9	258	34460+ GST+Penalty	**Kishore Reddy M** **Address :** 124/2,3rd Main Ashwirwad colony, Horamavu,Bangalore- 560033

For further details Contact : **The Branch Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, HRBR Layout Branch, Mobile : 8525951554**
Sd/-
Date : 11.05.2026 **For Indinan Overseas Bank**

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

TUMAKURU CITY CORPORATION, TUMAKURU
website: www.tumkurucity.mrc.gov.in Office Number: 0816-2272200
e-mail: itstaff_ulb_tumkur@yahoo.com Helpline : 9449872599
No:TCC/Engineer Section/ele&ws/Tender/CR/07/2026-27 Date:08.05.2026
Tender Notification

The Commissioner, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999-2000 through KPPP portal for Tumakuru City Corporation, for 01 Water supply Related PAC Powder Supply work & 01 No Electrical Work under Genaral fund 2026-27. For more information go to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** and contact technical section in the office hours.

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Scheduled calendar of events and other information are as follows:

1	Date of Queries of Tenders	:	**22-05-2026 at 5.00 pm**
2	Last Date for Submission of Tenders	:	**25-05-2026 at 5.00 pm**
3	Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)	:	**26-05-2026 at 5.15 pm**

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
TCC, Tumakuru
DIPR/TUM/RO-28/26-27/Oysters

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22112809
ಸಂ.ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ/ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2026-27/181 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು **KW-2 STD** ಷರತ್ತುಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಮೊದಲನೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

Sl. No.	Work Indents	Work Value (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Providing CCTV system with AI feature cameras for the Security Measures in the premises of Honorable Chief Minister Residence Cauvery and Home office Krishna at K.K.Road, Bengaluru PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT35318	29.37

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.05.2026 ರಿಂದ 19.05.2026, 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಿಂತಿರುಗಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.05.2026 ರಂದೆ 16:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ).
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಉನಿ–ಪಿ.ಪಿ/590/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಪಿಎ/2026–27

QUICK READ

PDP leader Iltija Mufti's X account withheld in India

Srinagar
The X account of Iltija Mufti, the daughter of People's Democratic Party (PDP) President and former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, has been withheld in India. The platform said that the action has been taken in response to a legal demand. It announced the withholding of Iltija Mufti's account days after the Cyber Police Kashmir registered an FIR against her following the circulation of a video clip featuring late separatist Hurriyat leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Attempts by users to access her X account in India came to a notice stating that access to the account has been restricted in compliance with a legal request. Similar notices are generally issued by X when accounts are blocked or withheld under legal provisions or government directives.

'Patel men 'not capable enough' for marriage'

Banaskantha
Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel's daughter Anar Patel on Monday said Patel girls are increasingly marrying outside the community because many young men are not "capable enough" and went on to cite issues like drinking alcohol and lack of work. Anar Patel, president of Shree Khodaldham Trust (SKT) that represents the Leuva Patidar community, also asked why society continues to primarily advice daughters on the issue. A video of her remarks, addressing a gathering in Gadh village, has gone viral on social media. "(Patel) Girls are marrying into other communities because many boys in the community are not capable enough.

Left to introspect on reasons behind Kerala debacle

New Delhi
CPI(M) and CPI on Monday (May 11) described the defeat of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala Assembly election as a "serious setback" and "cause of concern" and vowed to conduct "serious introspection" on the reasons behind the debacle as also on the BJP registering victories in three seats. After a two-day Polit Bureau meeting here, CPI(M) General Secretary MA Baby said .

Patel credits PM Modi for strengthening cultural nationalism

Patel described the Somnath Temple as a timeless symbol of India's faith, resilience, and civilisational continuity

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday credited Narendra Modi with strengthening the spirit of cultural nationalism and reviving Sanatan Hindu cultural consciousness during the 'Somnath Amrut Parv' celebrations marking 75 years of the reconstruction of the historic Somnath Temple.

Addressing the gathering, Patel described the Somnath Temple as a timeless symbol of India's faith, resilience, and civilisational continuity. He said the temple has repeatedly risen despite attempts throughout history to destroy it, reflecting the enduring strength of India's cultural foundations.

The temple of Bhagwan Somnath has for centuries remained a living symbol of the country's faith, culture, unwavering resolve and resurgence, Patel said during his speech.

The Gujarat Chief Minister recalled that the reconstruction of the temple after India's independence marked an important moment in the country's cultural and national resurgence. He praised Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel for taking the historic decision to rebuild the temple, describing its reconstruction in 1951 as a major milestone in independent India's journey.

Patel linked the present-day focus on heritage conservation to the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, stating that cultural heritage has become a central element of governance and national development under his administration.

The Prime Minister has strengthened the spirit of cultural nationalism and the resurgence of Sanatan Hindu culture among the people of the country, Patel said.

He referred to major pilgrimage and heritage development initiatives undertaken in recent years, including projects at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Kedarnath Temple, and the transformation of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. According to him, these initiatives represent a broader vision of combining heritage preservation with economic development and tourism growth linked to pilgrimage centres.

The celebrations at Somnath Temple also included ceremonial honours for the Prime Minister. Modi was presented with symbolic gifts connected to the temple's heritage, including a replica of the Somnath Temple, a lion motif portrait, and a ceremonial kalash.

Jitu Vaghani also presented a traditional damru to the Prime Minister as part of the welcome ceremony.

Earlier during the programme, Modi released a commemorative postage stamp and unveiled a special Rs 75 coin marking the 75th anniversary of the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple.

The event featured devotional rituals, cultural performances, and participation by religious leaders, public representatives, and devotees from different parts of the country.

Patel described the 75-year journey since the reconstruction of Somnath Temple as both a historic achievement and a reaffirmation of India's civilisational identity rooted in continuity, faith, and renewal.

Delhi cops crack robbery case within hours, 4 held

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police's Shakarpur Police Station staff on Monday successfully solved a robbery case within hours of its registration and arrested four accused involved in the conspiracy, surveillance, and execution of the crime, officials said.

According to police officials, the breakthrough was achieved through intensive technical surveillance, extensive field investigation, and manual analysis of more than 100 CCTV cameras installed across the Delhi-6, ITO, Geeta Colony, and Laxmi Nagar routes.

The incident took place on May 9, when complainant Zubair Khan, a resident of Lal Kuan, was travelling towards the Ghazipur Fish Market on his scooty carrying Rs 1,16,000 in cash for business purposes. As per the complaint, after crossing the ITO near Geeta Colony Cut, he was intercepted by three men riding a motorcycle.

The accused allegedly attempted to stop him by kicking his moving scooty and threatening him with a knife.

SIR deletions impacted Bengal poll results: TMC to SC

NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress on Monday informed the Supreme Court of India that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal had materially influenced the outcome of Assembly elections in several constituencies.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi was hearing a batch of petitions challenging the SIR exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India ahead of the recently concluded West Bengal Assembly elections.

During the hearing, senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, appearing for Trinamool Congress leaders, argued that the deletion of voters during the revision process had a direct bearing on election outcomes in multiple constituencies.

Referring specifically to the Jangipara Assembly constituency, Banerjee stated that BJP candidate Prasenjit Bag won by a margin of only 862 votes, while more than 5,000 voter names were allegedly deleted during the SIR exercise.

My candidate lost by 862 votes, but 5,550 names were deleted. This Court had indicated that if the vote difference is less than the deletion of names, then this court will look into it, Banerjee submitted before the Bench.

The top court said Mamata Banerjee and others could file fresh applications over electoral roll deletions in West Bengal

The senior counsel further argued that the overall vote gap between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP across the state was approximately 32 lakh votes, while nearly 35 lakh appeals against voter deletions were still pending before appellate tribunals established under earlier Supreme Court directions.

Banerjee contended that constituencies where the victory margin was lower than the number of deleted voters deserved detailed judicial examination. According to him, unresolved appeals and large-scale voter deletions raised serious concerns regarding the fairness of the electoral process.

However, the Bench clarified that any grievance specifically relating to election outcomes and the alleged impact of deleted voters would require the filing of a separate interlocutory application.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, appearing on behalf of the Election Commission, opposed the submissions and argued that disputes concerning election results could only be challenged through election petitions under the Representation of the People Act.The matter forms part of an ongoing legal battle over the Special Intensive Revision process, which has become a major political issue following allegations by opposition parties.

Cong camp in a huddle, IUML sounds alarm as Kerala CM delay deepens

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress leadership's prolonged indecision over Kerala's next Chief Minister is now beginning to trigger visible unease within the UDF, with both alliance partners and factional camps stepping up pressure on the party high command as the suspense stretches into a second week after the Assembly election verdict.

In a dramatic development on Monday, a proposed joint meeting of leaders aligned with Congress General Secretary, Organisation, K.C. Venugopal and former state unit chief K. Sudhakaran at Sudhakaran's residence in Kannur was abruptly postponed at the last minute after news of the gathering surfaced in the media.The meeting, widely viewed within Congress circles as an attempt by the two camps to demonstrate coordinated political.

The state government is focusing on strengthening law and order by increasing the strength of the police force

MP to speed up police recruitment: CM Yadav

BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday announced that Madhya Pradesh will accelerate police recruitment and introduce new welfare measures for police personnel, while declaring that the state has successfully eliminated Naxalism after decades of conflict.Addressing police officers and officials at Ravindra Bhawan, Yadav said the state government is focusing on strengthening law and order by increasing the strength of the police force and creating more opportunities for young people to join the department.

He stated that the police recruitment processes for 2023 and 2024 have already been completed and that a fresh recruitment drive for 2026 will soon be launched. According to the Chief Minister, the government has set a target of filling 22,500 vacancies across various positions ranging from constables to Sub-Inspectors.

Yadav also highlighted several welfare initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions of police personnel.

He said the government is coordinating with the Housing Board and other agencies to provide eligible officers and staff with housing facilities in their home districts.

Police personnel always remain dedicated to society's safety. Therefore, ensuring their welfare and personal well-being is the responsibility of the state government, he said.

The Chief Minister noted that modern policing faces evolving challenges, particularly.

Sudhanshu Trivedi defends PM Modi's austerity appeal

NEW DELHI

BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi on Monday asked the Opposition parties to rise above the 'politics of malice' and also urged them not to cross the line of national interest, in their zeal for opposition to the Modi government.

Trivedi's pointed advice to the Opposition came after the latter raised a hue and cry over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

'Zero compliance of POSH': NCW uncovers glaring lapses at TCS Nashik

MUMBAI

The National Commission for Women's (NCW) fact-finding team has found shocking 'lapses and irregularities' in the functioning of POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) committee at the TCS' Nashik unit, bringing the focus back on how some women employees were sexually harassed, mentally tortured and coerced to convert by the office staff of other faith, with impunity.The four-member NCW fact-finding committee, which probed into claims of persecution and religious conversion of women employees at the IT firm in Nashik, came across a series of 'violations' that left even the panel members appalled over the level of insensitivity. The POSH committee, in particular, has been found to be lacking on many counts.

The NCW, in its findings, said, The internal committee (IC) for POSH is common for Pune and Nasik – a direct contravention of the Act. Not a single IC member ever visited or inspected the Nashik unit for POSH Act compliance.

It further says that there were no placards, boards, or posters demonstrating the mandate of POSH compliance.

GOVT OF KARNATAKA
O/o EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD, UDUPI
DIVISION UDUPI - 576101.
C.No: (0820) 2531802
No.PWD:UDN:NIT-03:2026-27:AE-2 Dated: 11.05.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
It is here by notified for the information of intending eligible registered contractor in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **20.05.2026** through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" under **5054-80-190-0-01-132 & 5054-04-337-0-01-154** head, 2 work costing **Rs. 42.25 & 158.74 Lakhs (excluding GST)** for KRDCL & MDR Improvements.
For more information contact office during office hours.
Executive Engineer, Public works department Udupi Division Udupi.

WB govt tightens crackdown on cow smuggling

KOLKATA

The newly formed Bharatiya Janata Party government has initiated strict measures to curb alleged cow smuggling in the state, directing police and administrative authorities to increase surveillance and prevent illegal cattle trade activities.

According to government officials, the crackdown began immediately after the new administration assumed office. On the first working day of the government, instructions were issued to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure that illegal cattle transportation and trading activities are stopped at all levels.

Authorities stated that district police units have been asked to maintain strict vigilance and prevent the operation of unauthorised cattle markets. Additional monitoring arrangements have also been introduced to ensure that no illegal markets are reopened in different parts of the state.

The state government reportedly conveyed a strong message to senior police officials, following which directions were passed on to district-level police authorities for immediate implementation.

The issue of alleged cow smuggling has remained politically sensitive in the state for several years.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿ ರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು– 570 020. ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: environmentmcc@gmail.com
ಸಂ.: ಹೆಚ್1/ಪ.ವಿ/101/2022–2023 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.05.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾಲ್ಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ
Goods Tender	02	54.50	07.05.2026	**16.05.2026**
Service Tender	02	162.79	07.05.2026	**21.05.2026**
EOI	01	-	07.05.2026	**15.05.2026**

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (https://kppp.karntaka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾ.ಅ (ಪರಿಸರ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪರಿಸರ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
DIPR/MYS/163/SA/2026-27

Government of Karnataka Office of the Executive Engineer
PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA-571313
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 03/2026-27 DATED: 07-05-2026 (Two Cover System)
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, **Chamarajanagara** invites tender in co-ordination with e-procurement portal platform, Bangalore. Tender format as per **KW-2** through e-procurement under the Head of Account **CMIDP** for Date of application submission for tender document and submission of filled tender through online **Date: 11-05-2026 to 30-05-2026 upto 16.00 hours.** Last date for clarifications/ queries on tender **Date: 25-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** date of opening of technical bid of the tender **Date: 01-06-2026 after 17.00 hours.** After the approval of Technical bid the Financial Bid will be opened. Tender Form Fee: As per e-procurement Details as belows.

Sl. No	Name of work	Estimate Cost (Rs.in Lakhs)	Approximate Value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs)	Contractor Eligibility
1	ಯಳಂದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಮದ್ದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಮದ್ದೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಿಂದ ಆಲ್ಕೆರೆ ಅಗ್ರಹಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಹೋಗುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (02ನೇ ಕರೆ)	50.00			Class - III & above
2	ಯಳಂದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಯರಿಯೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಯರಿಯೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹೊಸ ಬಡಾವಣೆ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಕೆಸ್ತೂರಿಗೆ ಸೇರುವ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (02ನೇ ಕರೆ)	50.00			Class - III & above

For more details visit website: **htpp://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chamarajangara (Ph: 08226- 223019) during office hours.
Executive Engineer,
PRED Division, Chamarajángara
AE Phone No: 8073339806
NO: DIPR: CHANAGAR : 98: 2026-27

QUICK READ

Ukraine reports Russian attacks despite ceasefire

Jerusalem

Ukraine's military and regional officials on Monday reported Russian drone strikes and battlefield clashes over the past 24 hours, despite a U.S.-brokered ceasefire. Ukraine and Russia agreed on Friday to a ceasefire from May 9 to May 11 as part of a U.S.-led push for peace under President Donald Trump to end more than four years of war since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. The ceasefire, which Trump said on Friday he hoped would be extended, was already showing signs of strain, when each side accused the other of violating it. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenski said Moscow had refrained from large-scale aerial.

Pak blames Afghan-based militants for attack on police

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan blames Afghanistan-based militants for the attack on a police post that killed 15 personnel over the weekend, Pakistan's foreign ministry said on Monday, signaling fresh tension between the neighbours whose militaries have clashed over the issue this year. The police personnel were killed in a car bombing at a police post in the northwestern part of Pakistan followed by an ambush on forces rushing to the scene, Pakistani police said. A detailed investigation into the incident, along with evidence collected and technical intelligence, indicates that the attack was masterminded by terrorists.

Taiwan says it drove away Chinese research ship

TAIPEI

Taiwan's coast guard said on Monday that it had disrupted illegal operations by a Chinese research ship in waters close to the island and driven it away, part of what Taipei sees a provocative pattern of China's stepped up maritime activities. The coast guard said that last Thursday it detected the Chinese ship the Tongji, which was commissioned only last year, 29 nautical miles southeast of the southern tip of Taiwan though just outside restricted waters. The ship was observed lowering ropes into the water, suspected to be the deployment of scientific instruments for illegal survey operations, and the coast guard sent its own ship in, it said in a statement. The Taiwanese ship moved in close to create wake interference, and broadcast messages to forcefully expel the vessel, prohibiting it from conducting related activities.

Oil prices surge as Trump rejects Iran deal

Days after the US proposed fresh talks, Iran responded with a plan to end the conflict, demanding war compensation and sovereignty over the Strait

DUBAI

Global oil prices surged on Monday after US President Donald Trump swiftly rejected Iran's latest response to a proposed American peace initiative aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The latest escalation comes only days after the United States floated a proposal intended to reopen negotiations with Tehran and reduce tensions in the region. However, Iran responded with a broad set of demands focused on ending the conflict across multiple fronts, especially in Lebanon, where Israel continues military operations against Hezbollah militants backed by Iran.

According to Iranian state media, Tehran's response included demands for compensation for war-related damages and a strong assertion of Iranian sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz. The proposal also called on the United States to end its naval blockade, guarantee that no future attacks would take place, lift economic sanctions, and remove restrictions on Iranian oil exports.

Iranian officials described their response as a balanced and responsible effort aimed at restoring regional stability. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baghaei stated on Monday that Iran's conditions were legitimate and intended to ensure peace and secure navigation in the Gulf region. Our demand is legitimate: ending the war, lifting the blockade, and releasing Iranian assets frozen under U.S. pressure, Baghaei said. He added that safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz and regional security, including stability in Lebanon, were central elements of Tehran's proposal.

Despite these claims, President Trump dismissed the proposal within hours through a post on his Truth Social platform. I don't like it — TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE, Trump wrote, without offering additional details about the reasons behind the rejection.

The United States had reportedly hoped to first secure a ceasefire before beginning discussions on more contentious matters, particularly Iran's nuclear programme and broader regional influence.

The diplomatic stalemate immediately affected global energy markets. Oil prices climbed nearly three percent on Monday as investors reacted to fears that the Strait of Hormuz could remain largely closed for an extended period. Before the conflict erupted on February 28, the narrow waterway handled nearly one-fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, making it one of the world's most critical energy transit routes.

Analysts warn that prolonged instability in the region could place additional pressure on global fuel prices and further strain international trade and energy security.

Starmer under pressure, promises bold reset

LONDON

The British Prime Minister on Monday pledged to take bolder action to revive the economy and restore public confidence, while urging members of his Labour Party to stay united

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Monday pledged to take bolder action to revive Britain's economy and restore public confidence, while urging members of his Labour Party to remain united amid increasing internal pressure over recent election setbacks.

Addressing party supporters at a community centre in London, Starmer admitted that his government may have been too cautious in handling the many challenges facing Britain since Labour's sweeping election victory in 2024.

He accepted responsibility for Labour's poor performance in recent local elections, where the party lost hundreds of council seats across England as well as ground in Scotland and Wales.

The British leader described the current global climate as one of the most dangerous periods of his lifetime, citing ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and tensions involving Iran as major threats to international stability. Against that backdrop, he said Britain needed a decisive break from the political and economic approaches that had maintained the status quo for years.

Starmer promised that his administration would now govern with greater urgency and determination in an effort to improve living standards, strengthen economic security, and build what he described as a stronger, fairer Britain. His remarks were also seen as an attempt to counter growing political pressure from the right-wing Reform UK party as well as the Green Party on the left ahead of the next general election expected in 2029.

Our response this time must be different, a complete break, Starmer said during the speech. We must make this country stronger and take control of our economic security.

He openly acknowledged the growing dissatisfaction among voters and within his own party. I know that people are frustrated by the state of Britain. Frustrated by politics, and some people are frustrated with me, he told supporters.

I know I have my doubters and I know I need to prove them wrong. And I will.

The speech received several standing ovations from Labour loyalists in attendance, but behind the scenes concerns about Starmer's leadership continue to grow. Discussions among Labour lawmakers about a possible leadership challenge have reportedly intensified following the recent election results.

Former junior minister Catherine West added to the pressure over the weekend by suggesting she could seek a leadership contest if Starmer failed to deliver major changes. However, on Monday she softened her position, instead proposing that Labour lawmakers consider establishing a timetable for Starmer's eventual departure rather than launching an immediate challenge. Despite the unrest, Starmer has repeatedly stated that he has no intention of stepping down voluntarily.

2 held over suspected deliveries of hi-tech gear to Russia

STOCKHOLM

Two people have been detained in Sweden on suspicion of helping Russia procure advanced engineering products that could be used in Moscow's war in Ukraine, the Swedish security service said on Monday.

Agents suspected the hi-tech gear had reached Russia in violation of EU sanctions, the SAPO security service's Deputy Head of Operations, Christoffer Wedelin, told Reuters.

The Russian war industry depends on technology, including from Sweden, to continue its war of aggression in Ukraine, Wedelin said.

SAPO carried out searches at several places in Stockholm, and in southern and western Sweden, he added.

Court documents identified the suspects as a Swedish and a Turkish national, both men.

One was formally detained at a Stockholm court on Friday, the other faces a detention hearing later on Monday, according to the documents.

Philippine VP Duterte impeached for a second time

MANILA

Philippine lawmakers voted overwhelmingly on Monday to impeach Vice President Sara Duterte, paving the way for a high-stakes Senate trial that could determine her political future and potentially damage her chances of running for president in 2028.

The impeachment complaint accused Duterte of misusing public funds, accumulating unexplained wealth, and making threats against President Marcos, his wife, and a former speaker of the House. Duterte has strongly denied all allegations.

The complaint, filed by a coalition of activists, lawyers, and religious groups, gained overwhelming support in the House of Representatives. A total of 257 lawmakers voted in favour of impeachment, comfortably surpassing the constitutional requirement of support from at least one-third of the chamber. Only 25 lawmakers voted against the motion, while nine abstained.

The vote sets the stage for an impeachment trial in the Philippine Senate, where senators will serve as jurors. If convicted, Duterte could be removed from office and permanently barred from holding public office, a development that would likely end her ambitions for the presidency in 2028.Duterte, 47, has long been viewed as a leading contender to succeed Marcos, who is constitutionally limited to a single six-year term. However, the impeachment proceedings now threaten to reshape the country's political landscape ahead of the next presidential election.In a statement released after the vote, Duterte's legal team expressed confidence about defending her during the Senate proceedings. We are fully prepared to defend the Vice President before the Senate sitting as an impeachment court, where it is incumbent upon the prosecution to discharge the burden of proof, the statement said.The impeachment represents another major setback for the influential Duterte political family. Sara Duterte has been locked in a bitter feud with Marcos in recent months, ending what was once a powerful political alliance that helped deliver victory in the 2022 elections.

The family is also facing pressure from international legal proceedings involving former President Rodrigo Duterte. He is currently awaiting trial at the International Criminal Court over allegations linked to his controversial anti-drug campaign, which resulted in thousands of deaths during his presidency from 2016 to 2022.

In a dramatic political twist, the Philippine Senate also underwent a leadership change on Monday before the impeachment vote. Senators approved a motion to remove the chamber's president and replace him with Alan Peter Cayetano, a close ally of the Duterte family.The appointment of Cayetano could significantly influence.

Poland seeks answers after fugitive ex-min leaves Hungary for US

WARSAW

Poland will seek answers about how a former minister wanted on abuse of power charges managed to travel from Hungary to the United States, a foreign ministry spokesperson said on Monday, after Warsaw's hopes of bringing him to trial were thwarted.

Former Polish Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro and his deputy Marcin Romanowski were granted asylum in Hungary by Viktor Orban, but Warsaw had hoped the former prime minister's defeat by pro-EU rival Peter Magyar in an April election meant they would soon be brought back to Poland.

They had been stripped of their passports. The whereabouts of Romanowski were unclear. We will ask both the United States and Hungary for the legal and factual basis on which Zbigniew Ziobro left Hungarian territory, Polish foreign ministry spokesperson Maciej Wewior told Reuters.

And specifically, what document allowed him to cross the border and gave him the right to enter the United States.

Thailand's former PM Thaksin freed from prison

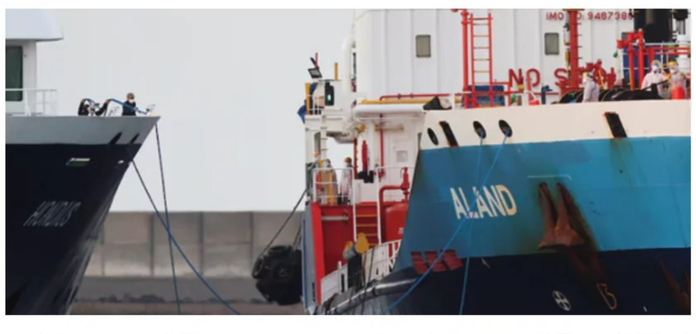
BANGKOK

Thailand's billionaire former premier Thaksin Shinawatra was released from jail on parole and met by cheering crowds on Monday, eight months after a court ordered him to do the prison time he tried to dodge with a prolonged stay in hospital.

FLOATING HORROR

Hantavirus cases rise after deadly cruise ship outbreak

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE



Health authorities confirmed on Monday that two additional people tested positive for hantavirus after being evacuated from the luxury cruise ship MV Hondius, where a deadly outbreak has already claimed three lives. Spanish officials are now preparing to evacuate and repatriate the remaining passengers from the vessel anchored near Tenerife in the Atlantic Ocean.

The outbreak aboard the MV Hondius has triggered an international health response involving several European countries after passengers began showing symptoms during the voyage. The cruise ship had departed from southern Argentina 41 days ago before the outbreak emerged.French Health Minister Stephanie Rist confirmed that a French passenger evacuated from the ship had tested positive for hantavirus and that her condition was worsening. Authorities also reported that another repatriated passenger tested mildly positive for the Andes strain of the virus, while a second person displayed mild symptoms associated with the infection.

Spanish authorities coordinating the emergency operation announced that the remaining 24 passengers on board were scheduled to be evacuated on Monday afternoon. The ship is currently anchored near Tenerife as health teams continue monitoring the situation closely.

The evacuation marks the final phase of a large-scale operation that has already seen 94 passengers and crew members transported back to their home countries. The response effort intensified nine days ago after the first confirmed positive test for the respiratory viral infection was identified on board.So far, three people have died since the outbreak began, including a Dutch couple and a German passenger. Authorities have not yet released additional details about the victims, but investigations into how the virus spread on the ship are ongoing.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NITIN KUMAR DHAMSE (old name), a resident of ATR APARTMENT, FLAT NO. 201, 2ND FLR, NO 40, 9TH, MAIN, NEW THIPPSANDRA, HAL 3RD STG, BENGALURU 560075, Karnataka, INDIA, have changed my name to NITIN DHAMSE (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 11-05-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Basavaraj Alias Ravi Battur S/o Ramappa Battur R/o Tande Tayi Krupa, C Block, Basaveshwar Nagar, VTC: Haveri, Karnataka-581110, have changed my name to Basavaraj Ramappa Battur.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NARENDRA VENUGOPAL S/o VENUGOPAL KRISHNAPPA R/o Flat 1, Tuscany 200, 17th Main Road, 20th Cross Road, Behind HSR Club, HSR Layout Sector 3, H S R Layout, Hsr Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560102, have changed the name of my minor daughter LAHARI N MAHITA alias LAHARI NARENDRA MAHITA aged 12 years and she shall hereafter be known as AADITRI MAHITA

Document Lost

Haseena Taj C/O Fakhruddin Age 42 Years 13th Bagepalli Town, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapur District Pin 561 207
The summary of the complaint I have filed with Bagepalli Police Station is that on 26/04/26 and 26/04/2019, I went to the Bagepalli Taluk Office to get the vacant plot (Assessment No. 1695/4G and BGP No. 4465/205-16) in my name xeroxed and when I came to get the vacant plot xeroxed, I lost the vacant plot xeroxed.
I have filed a complaint under the lost material record report serial number 2172994/2026
and have issued a press release requesting for the retrieval of the said lost vacant plot xeroxed.

Contact :- 8123339769

Document Lost

I Rajanna s/o late Hanumappa, aged about 60 years. R/at yadahalli village, balla post, Mulabagilu Taluk, Kolar District, do herby solemnly affirm and state on oath follws:
I sward Xerox the said original documents in Xerox center bus stand, mulabagilu town. I have lost the entire documents file relating to the below said item. land sarve number 16/3, Kashipura, mulabagilu Taluk, Kolar District, no: 460/19-20, Date: 16/05/2019, documents on 07/05/2026. It has been lost on 07/05/2026. I have filed a complaint in this regard at the police station.The complaint number is: PO01S260001265

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FIFA WC countdown begins amid tensions and outrage

Expanded global football spectacle faces controversies despite excitement building before historic tournament begins

NEW YORK

The countdown to the 2026 FIFA World Cup has officially begun, but political tensions, soaring ticket prices and unresolved broadcasting issues have overshadowed preparations for football's biggest tournament.

For the first time in history, the World Cup will be jointly hosted by United States, Canada and Mexico, with a record 48 nations participating in the expanded tournament scheduled from June 11 to July 19.

While excitement surrounding the competition continues to grow, off-field controversies have increasingly dominated headlines. Ongoing tensions in West Asia, particularly the continuing conflict involving Iran and the United States, have raised concerns over the participation and travel arrangements of Iran national football team.

Iran is scheduled to play its group-stage matches in Los Angeles and Seattle, though uncertainty surrounding the geopolitical situation has sparked widespread debate. FIFA president Gianni Infantino has, however, assured that Iran will participate in the tournament.

Another major issue has been the dramatic rise in ticket prices, which has drawn criticism from football fans worldwide. The most expensive face-value ticket for the 2022 World Cup final in Qatar cost around $1,600, while premium tickets for the 2026 final at MetLife Stadium are reportedly being sold for nearly $33,000.

The tournament will also mark the first World Cup featuring 48 teams, expanding from the traditional 32-team format. FIFA's new structure increases the number of group-stage matches from 48 to 72, significantly lengthening the competition.

Questions remain over whether the tournament can maintain its intensity and appeal amid concerns about player fatigue and scheduling demands.

Fans in India are also anxiously awaiting clarity over official broadcasting rights, which are yet to be finalised just weeks before kickoff.

Despite the controversies, the tournament promises several historic moments, including debut appearances for nations like Curaçao and Cape Verde. The competition will begin at Estadio Azteca before concluding with the final in New Jersey, as football prepares for its biggest-ever global celebration.

Trossard strike lifts Arsenal closer to Premier League title

LONDON

Arsenal F.C. moved within touching distance of a historic Premier League title after a dramatic late goal from Leandro Trossard secured a nervy 1-0 victory over West Ham United F.C. at the London Stadium.

The Belgian forward struck the decisive goal in the 83rd minute of a tense encounter that kept supporters on edge until the final whistle. Arsenal survived a late scare when West Ham thought they had snatched an equaliser through Callum Wilson in stoppage time, only for the goal to be ruled out for offside following a lengthy VAR review.

With the pressure mounting and the match heading toward a frustrating draw, Trossard calmly converted a low pass from captain Martin Ødegaard to spark wild celebrations among the travelling Arsenal supporters.

The hard-fought victory strengthened Arsenal's grip on the title race as the club chases its first Premier League crown since 2004.

Belgian forward's decisive goal secured tense victory over struggling West Ham United away

The Gunners now have 79 points from 36 matches, five ahead of defending champions Manchester City F.C., although City still hold a game in hand.

Arsenal will secure the title if they win their remaining two matches against Burnley F.C. and Crystal Palace F.C. later this month.

For West Ham, however, the defeat deepened relegation fears. The London club remains dangerously close to the drop zone and could fall four points behind safety depending on other results this week.

Arsenal's remarkable campaign could become even more memorable as the club also prepares for the UEFA Champions League final against defending champions Paris Saint-Germain F.C. on May 30 in Budapest.

The North London side is set to appear in Europe's biggest club final for the first time in two decades after previously falling short in last season's semifinals.

Hansi Flick's dominant side secured title glory before jubilant Camp Nou supporters

FC BARCELONA SEAL 29TH LALIGA WITH CLASICO WIN

BARCELONA

FC Barcelona clinched their 29th LaLiga title in emphatic fashion after defeating arch-rivals Real Madrid CF 2-0 in a high-stakes Clasico clash at a packed Camp Nou.

The victory moved Barcelona to an unassailable 91 points, 14 ahead of second-placed Real Madrid with only three matches remaining in the season, confirming another league triumph under coach Hansi Flick.

Barcelona's title-winning campaign has been marked by remarkable consistency, with the Catalan giants losing only four league games all season.

The hosts wasted little time asserting control over the match. Marcus Rashford gave Barcelona the lead in the ninth minute with a superb curling free-kick after Antonio Rüdiger fouled Ferran Torres just outside the penalty area. The early breakthrough ignited celebrations around the stadium and intensified the pressure on a Real Madrid side that desperately needed victory to keep their fading title hopes alive.

Barcelona doubled their advantage just nine minutes later when Fermín López delivered a dangerous cross into the box. Dani Olmo cleverly backheeled the ball into the path of Torres, who thundered a powerful strike into the top corner past goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois.

Despite missing several key players including Lamine Yamal and Raphinha from the starting lineup, Barcelona dominated large spells of the encounter.

Real Madrid, also weakened by injuries and suspensions, struggled to find attacking rhythm without injured star Kylian Mbappé.

The visitors threatened occasionally through Vinícius Júnior and Jude Bellingham, but Barcelona goalkeeper Joan García produced crucial saves to preserve the clean sheet.

As the final whistle sounded, jubilant celebrations erupted across Camp Nou, with Barcelona players lifting the trophy in front of ecstatic supporters after another dominant domestic campaign under Flick's leadership.

Sabalenka faces injury concerns after shock Italian Open defeat before Roland Garros

ROME

Aryna Sabalenka has raised fresh injury concerns ahead of the French Open after revealing that lower back and hip problems affected her during a surprise third-round defeat at the Italian Open.

The world number one suffered a shock 2-6, 6-3, 7-5 defeat against Romanian player Sorana Cîrstea in Rome, marking her second consecutive disappointing tournament after an earlier upset loss to Hailey Baptiste at the Madrid Open.

Sabalenka appeared physically uncomfortable during the deciding set and took a medical timeout after struggling with movement on court. Speaking after the match, the Belarusian admitted that pain in her lower back and hip area limited her ability to rotate fully while striking the ball.

"I'd say it's probably my lower back connected to the hip, which is limiting my full rotation," Sabalenka explained after the defeat.

The three-time Grand Slam champion said she now plans to focus entirely on recovery before travelling to Paris for Roland Garros later this month.

"We're going to take a few days off and focus on recovery," she added.

Sabalenka started strongly against Cirstea, dominating the opening set and moving 2-0 ahead in the second. However, her level gradually dipped as unforced errors crept into her game, allowing the Romanian to seize momentum.

The top seed acknowledged that her physical condition played a major role in the collapse. "I felt like my body was limiting me from performing at the highest level," she said. "She stepped in and played incredible tennis and didn't really give me many opportunities."

Despite the disappointing result, Sabalenka attempted to remain positive, describing the defeat as a learning experience rather than a major setback.

Cirstea, meanwhile, maintained composure during the crucial moments of the deciding set and capitalised on Sabalenka's struggles to secure one of the biggest wins of her recent career.

The latest defeat has intensified scrutiny surrounding Sabalenka's clay-court form ahead of the French Open, where she is still chasing her maiden singles title.

Back-to-back losses in Madrid and Rome have also raised questions over her consistency and fitness heading into one of the most demanding tournaments of the tennis calendar.

Australian tennis great Mal Anderson passes away at 91, tributes pour in

MELBOURNE

Mal Anderson, the first unseeded player to win the US Open men's singles title, has died at the age of 91, Tennis Australia confirmed on Monday.

One of Australia's most respected tennis figures, Anderson rose from humble beginnings on a dirt court farm to become a Grand Slam champion and Davis Cup hero during a remarkable career that left a lasting impact on Australian tennis.

Anderson achieved his greatest singles success in 1957 when he captured the United States Championships title — now known as the US Open — despite entering the tournament unseeded. During his historic run, he defeated three seeded opponents and lost only two sets on the way to lifting the trophy.

He also enjoyed significant success in doubles competition, winning three Grand Slam doubles titles and representing Australia with distinction in the Davis Cup, which he won twice.

Beyond his accomplishments on court, Anderson became widely admired for mentoring younger generations of Australian players after retirement. Among those he guided was former world number one Pat Rafter, who paid an emotional tribute following the news of Anderson's death.

"I was really sad to hear of Mal's passing," Rafter said. "He was one of those people who helped shape my tennis from very early on."

Rafter described Anderson as not only a legend of the game but also a generous and humble mentor who always made time for young players.

"Tennis in Australia has lost one of its greats, and many of us have lost a mate and mentor," Rafter added. "I feel very lucky to have known him."

Anderson's contribution to Australian tennis extended well beyond his playing days, with his experience and guidance influencing generations of players who followed him.

His passing marks the end of an era for Australian tennis, which produced some of the sport's most iconic champions during the mid-20th century.

Tributes from across the tennis world are expected to continue as players, officials and fans remember Anderson's achievements, sportsmanship and lasting contribution to the game.

Herbert wins LIV Virginia wire-to-wire

STERLING

Lucas Herbert produced a commanding performance to claim his maiden LIV Golf title after completing a wire-to-wire victory at LIV Golf Virginia.

The Australian golfer closed with a composed three-under 69 at Trump National Golf Club Washington D.C. to finish four shots ahead of veteran Spaniard Sergio García.

Herbert's breakthrough victory marked a major milestone in his LIV Golf career and also secured him qualification for the upcoming U.S. Open. The result lifted him to third place in the LIV Golf season standings and earned him a return to the prestigious major championship for the first time in three years.

"My first major was at Shinnecock in 2018," Herbert said after the victory. "It will be great to go back and see how much I've improved since then. I can't wait for the opportunity."

Herbert entered the tournament under difficult circumstances after battling illness earlier in the week. The Australian revealed he was feeling unwell before the event and had managed to play only nine practice holes prior to the opening round.

Despite the setback, Herbert quickly established control of the tournament with superb opening rounds of 64 and 63, building a commanding eight-shot advantage heading into the final day.

Although there were a few nervous moments during the closing stages, Herbert maintained his composure and comfortably secured victory in his third season on the LIV Golf circuit.

Garcia finished runner-up after carding a final-round 70, while Bryson DeChambeau climbed into third place with an impressive closing 66.

Meanwhile, Anthony Kim delivered one of the standout performances of the day with a brilliant 62 that helped the 4Aces GC force a playoff against Fireballs GC for the team title.

Iran seeks visa assurances for IRGC-linked members before World Cup

DUBAI

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran has insisted that members of the national football team and staff who completed military service with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps should be granted visas without complications for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Iranian football federation president Mehdi Taj said the country would "definitely" participate in the tournament while seeking assurances from hosts United States, Canada and Mexico regarding visas, security arrangements and respectful treatment of Iranian players and officials.

"All players and technical staff, especially those who served military service in the Revolutionary Guard, should receive visas without problems," Taj said in comments reported by Iranian media.

The issue has gained significance amid ongoing political tensions between Iran and the United States following recent military conflict involving Iran, the US and Israel. Iranian citizens also continue to face travel restrictions under policies introduced by the Trump administration.

Taj stressed that Iran would participate in the World Cup "without retreating from our beliefs, culture and convictions," while demanding guarantees concerning the treatment of the national flag, anthem and delegation during the tournament.

The concerns intensified after Canadian authorities reportedly denied Taj entry to attend a recent FIFA Congress 2026 due to his alleged past links with the Revolutionary Guard, which has been designated a terrorist organisation by both the US and Canada.

The visa issue could potentially affect several Iranian players, including captain Mehdi Taremi, who completed mandatory military service with the Revolutionary Guard. In Iran, conscripts may also be assigned to police or army units depending on government requirements.

Iran has qualified for its fourth consecutive World Cup and seventh overall appearance. Ranked 21st in the world, the team lost only one match during Asian qualifying.

'Bioenergy, green hydrogen top govt priorities amid global tensions'

The ongoing tensions between the US and Iran are likely to continue affecting global economies through disruptions in energy supply and rising costs

MUMBAI

Former Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said bioenergy and green hydrogen will remain key priorities for India as the country works to strengthen energy security and economic resilience amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia.

Addressing industry leaders at the summit, he highlighted the government's continued focus on macroeconomic stability and long-term reforms. He stated that India's fiscal position remains strong and that the country's banking system is stable even as major economies around the world face increasing pressure from geopolitical conflicts and supply chain disruptions.

Das said corporate balance sheets in India are now in a significantly healthier posi-

tion, enabling businesses to support fresh investments and expansion plans. He also assured investors and industry representatives that the government remains fully committed to carrying forward economic reforms without complacency.

However, he warned that the ongoing tensions between the United States and Iran are likely to continue affecting global economies through disruptions in energy supply and rising costs. According to Das, the instability in West Asia could have long-term implications for fuel prices, trade flows, and economic growth worldwide.

His remarks came shortly after Narendra Modi appealed to citizens to adopt measures aimed at reducing economic pressure on the country during the current international crisis. The Prime Minister urged people to work from home wherever possible, avoid unnecessary foreign travel for a year, and limit non-essential purchases of gold.

Modi also encouraged citizens to reduce the consumption of cooking oil, foreign-made goods, and chemical fertilisers. The measures are being viewed as part of a broader national effort to conserve foreign exchange reserves and lower dependence on imported fuel and commodities at a time of volatility in global energy markets.

Meanwhile, Rajnath Singh sought to reassure the public, urging citizens not to panic over the international situation. He said the government is taking concrete steps to minimise the economic and strategic impact of the evolving geopolitical developments.

Singh chaired the fifth meeting of the Informal Empowered Group of Ministers on Monday to review potential risks to energy supply chains and assess the domestic availability of essential commodities in light of the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

Experts believe India's push towards renewable energy sources such as bioenergy and green hydrogen could help reduce long-term dependence on imported fossil fuels and improve the country's energy security.

Odisha CM pushes 'orange economy' to boost job creation

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday said the Odisha government is focusing on promoting the Orange Economy, or culture-based economy, to create employment opportunities through tourism and heritage development.

Majhi was addressing devotees and dignitaries at the Lingaraj Temple during the Somnath Swabhiman Parv celebration. The event commemorated the reconstruction of the historic Somnath Temple and was observed with religious ceremonies and a live telecast of the address delivered by Narendra Modi in his role as Chairman of the Shree Somnath Temple Trust.

During his speech, the Odisha Chief Minister spoke about the deep spiritual connection between Somnath and Lingaraj temples. He described Somnath as the guardian of western India and Lingaraj as the enduring spiritual symbol of eastern India, emphasizing the cultural unity that binds different parts of the country.

A devotional atmosphere prevailed at the Lingaraj Temple complex as senior leaders, officials, and devotees gathered to witness the rituals and celebrations taking place at Somnath Temple in Gujarat. Majhi said such occasions re-

Majhi said his govt is focused on generating employment opportunities for local people through tourism development by promoting a culture-based economy in the state

flect India's rich spiritual traditions and strengthen national unity through shared cultural heritage.

The Chief Minister stressed the need to preserve Indian traditions and develop important Saivite shrines across Odisha. He recalled how the reconstruction of Somnath Temple after independence symbolised the revival of Indian civilisation under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

According to Majhi, repeated attempts by invaders throughout history to destroy temples could not weaken the faith of the people, and the rebuilding of these shrines demonstrated the resilience of Indian civilisation and Sanatan traditions.

He also praised Prime Minister Modi's vision of Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi — development alongside heritage preservation. Majhi said this philosophy is reflected in major national projects such as the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor and the construction of the Ram Mandir.

Highlighting Odisha's own cultural initiatives, the Chief Minister said the state government has invested Rs 330 crore in the development of Ekamra Kshetra and proposed a Shri Jagannath Museum project worth Rs 1,000 crore. He stated that these projects would help position Odisha as the cultural capital of India.

Majhi further noted that tourism linked to culture and heritage has significant potential to generate local employment and boost economic growth. He reiterated that promoting the Orange Economy remains a major priority for his government as Odisha seeks to combine cultural preservation with economic development.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister urged the people of Odisha to work together towards the vision of a Prosperous Odisha and a Developed India, drawing inspiration from the leadership of Sardar Patel and Prime Minister Modi.

QUICK READ

Sensex tanks over 1,300 points as Mideast crisis grows

Mumbai

Indian benchmark equity indices ended sharply lower on Monday as investor sentiment weakened amid rising concerns over the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict on global growth and inflation. At the closing bell, the Nifty was down by 360.3 or 1.49 per cent at 23,815.85, and the Sensex ended 1312.91 points or 1.70 per cent lower at 76,015.28. Commenting on the Nifty technical outlook, experts said that overall, the index appears vulnerable in the short term. Immediate support is placed at 23,700, below which the decline may accelerate further. On the upside, resistance is placed at 24,000, above which sentiment could improve, an analyst stated.

Gold ETFs shine with 34% inflow jump

New Delhi

The mutual fund industry in India continued to witness strong investor participation in April, with overall industry inflows rising to Rs 3.22 lakh crore, while gold exchange traded funds (ETFs) recorded robust growth amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty surrounding tensions between the US and Iran, according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Monday. The data also showed that actively managed equity mutual funds attracted net inflows of Rs 38,440.20 crore during the month. Inflows across equity categories remained healthy, with flexi-cap funds leading the segment by attracting inflows of Rs 10,147.85 crore in April.

Experts highlight that curbing these imports, which significantly affect the nation's Current Account Deficit, can enhance macro-stability amidst geopolitical instability

Industry experts back PM's call to reduce non-essential gold purchases

SURAT

Industry leaders and financial experts on Monday supported Narendra Modi's appeal urging citizens to avoid non-essential gold purchases in order to conserve India's foreign exchange reserves amid rising global economic uncertainty.

The discussion comes amid growing concerns over India's import bill as international geopolitical tensions continue to impact global markets, particularly crude oil and precious metals. Experts noted that India's heavy dependence on imported gold places significant pressure on foreign exchange reserves and contributes to the weakening of the rupee against the US dollar during periods of global instability.

India Bullion and Jewellers Association Gujarat President Nainesh Pachchigar said the Prime Minister's appeal could help reduce unnecessary outflow of foreign currency at a time when the country is facing rising import costs.

However, Pachchigar emphasised that gold in India cannot be viewed merely as a luxury consumption item. According to him, gold remains deeply connected to India's cultural traditions, household savings patterns, financial security, and women's empowerment across generations.

He suggested that the government should revive the earlier Gold Monetisation Scheme to encourage households to bring idle gold holdings into the formal financial system. Such a move, he said, would help increase recycling of gold within the country and reduce the need for fresh imports. Pachchigar further noted that the jewellery sector supports millions of artisans, craftsmen, and small businesses across India. Any attempt to curb gold imports, he warned, must be implemented carefully to avoid negatively affecting employment and the broader economic ecosystem linked to jewellery manufacturing and trade.

He added that the association plans to submit recommendations to the government outlining ways to save foreign exchange while protecting the interests of artisans and businesses dependent on the gold industry.

Supporting the Prime Minister's appeal, Renu Arora said India's dependence on imported gold and crude oil makes the economy vulnerable whenever international prices rise sharply. She stated that large-scale imports increase pressure on the rupee and can weaken macroeconomic stability.

Arora said reducing avoidable consumption of imported commodities would strengthen India's ability to withstand external economic shocks and improve long-term financial resilience.

'India chemical industry to hit $250 bn by 2030'

NEW DELHI

Orchestration led business models hold relevance to $130–150 billion of the global specialty chemicals market and could expand to $200–250 billion by 2030 as formulations grow more complex and supply chains fragment, a report said on Monday. The report from consulting firm Redseer said India's strength in process chemistry, formulation capabilities, and execution scale places it in a very strong position to participate in this shift. The global specialty chemicals market is nearing $1 trillion in size, the report said, adding that competitive advantage is shifting from pure manufacturing scale toward formulation ownership, supplier coordination, qualification management, and application-level expertise.

OMCS WARN CUSTOMERS OF RISING LPG DELIVERY SCAMS VIA OTPS

NEW DELHI

State owned oil marketing companies warned of rising cases of LPG delivery scams in which fraudsters impersonate official gas delivery services to extract One Time Passwords and Delivery Authentication Codes.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum issued advisories on social media about cyber fraud targeting domestic LPG consumers with fake SMS and WhatsApp messages mimicking delivery notifications. These messages are used to trick customers into sharing One-Time Passwords (OTPs) or Delivery Authentication Codes (DACs).

In several cases, callers posed as gas agency executives seeking KYC updates or Aadhaar linking to avoid disconnection of gas connections and then demanded OTPs to verify requests.

HPCL notified customers that official delivery messages will come from the sender name 'VM HPGASc S', contain a four digit OTP and are used only at the time of cylinder delivery.

HP Gas representatives will never ask for OTPs over phone calls, WhatsApp messages, or suspicious links, the post said, adding that If the message feels urgent, unfamiliar, or looks different from the official format, do not trust it.

Similarly, Indian Oil urged customers to share their 6-digit DAC only with Indane delivery personnel strictly after they reach the doorstep.

BPCL reminded consumers that sharing OTP only at the time of delivery is the one rule that keeps them safe.

Further, the oil corporations urged consumers to only book cylinders or update details through their official applications including IndianOil One, HPPay, or Hello BPCL. Verified websites can also be used, but consumers should be wary of communications arriving from personal mobile numbers via WhatsApp.

If customers accidentally share details or lose money, they must call the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 within the golden hour window to increase the chances of freezing stolen funds.

IT industry body seeks WFH advisory amid fuel crisis

NEW DELHI

The Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) on Monday urged the Centre to advise IT and IT-enabled services companies to implement work from home wherever operationally feasible, saying the move could help conserve fuel and reduce unnecessary travel amid rising global uncertainties.

In a letter addressed to Union Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, the employee body said remote working should be encouraged as part of a broader national effort to support fuel conservation and reduce pressure on urban infrastructure.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal encouraging citizens and organisations to adopt measures such as work from home, virtual meetings and reduced travel, NITES described the call as a collective national responsibility in view of current geopolitical developments and concerns around fuel consumption.

The association said the IT and ITES sector had already demonstrated during the Covid-19 pandemic that remote working models could function effectively without impacting productivity or business continuity.

The Indian IT sector had already successfully implemented large-scale work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic without disruption to productivity or business continuity, Harpreet Singh Saluja, President, NITES said.

The IT/ITeS sector has both the infrastructure and capability to once again support national priorities through remote working, he added.

According to NITES, technology companies, multinational firms, customer support operations and software teams continued to serve global clients and execute projects efficiently while operating remotely for several years during the pandemic.

Companies invested heavily in remote infrastructure, cybersecurity systems, cloud operations, digital collaboration tools, and virtual management systems, the industry body said.

Employees adapted successfully. Productivity targets were met. International business continued uninterrupted. The sector itself repeatedly acknowledged during that period that operations remained stable under remote working conditions, it added.

GUARANTEE FOR ROZGAR

Centre replaces MGNREGA with VB-GRAMG from July 1

NEW DELHI

The Viksit Bharat–G RAM G Act will officially replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, commonly known as MGNREGA, which will stand repealed once the new legislation is implemented nationwide.

According to the government's FAQ document, the new Act will be rolled out simultaneously across all states and union territories from July 1, 2026, following notification by the Central Government. State governments have also been directed to frame and notify their own schemes in line with the provisions of the new legislation within a prescribed timeframe.

One of the major changes under the new Act is the enhancement of the statutory employment guarantee from 100 days to 125 days of wage employment per financial year for eligible rural households whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work.

The government clarified that ongoing works under MGNREGA at the time of the new law's commencement will continue without disruption. Existing projects will be seamlessly migrated under the Viksit Bharat–G RAM G framework and prioritised for completion to ensure that public infrastructure and community assets are not left unfinished.

Officials also assured that employment under MGNREGA would continue uninter-

rupted during the transition phase before the new Act formally comes into force. Adequate labour budgets have already been allocated to states and union territories to maintain employment opportunities and ensure timely wage payments during the changeover period.

The FAQs further stated that states may begin new works if ongoing projects are insufficient to meet local employment demand. However, such new projects must align with the categories of permissible works listed under Schedule I of the new legislation.

The government emphasised that rural workers will continue to enjoy statutory protection and employment guarantees under the new law. Existing job card holders and registered workers are also expected to remain part of the system during the transition process, although further operational guidelines are likely to be issued in the coming months.

The Viksit Bharat–G RAM G Act is being presented by the Centre as a modernised rural development framework that not only provides employment but also focuses on the creation of durable and productive rural assets.

Flower fined over IPL code breach

IPL imposed sanctions after heated exchange between Flower and fourth umpire during controversy

BENGALURU

Andy Flower has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee after the IPL found the Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach guilty of breaching the tournament's Code of Conduct during the dramatic clash against Mumbai Indians.

The disciplinary action followed a heated confrontation involving Flower and the fourth official during the latter stages of RCB's tense run chase at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

According to the IPL Governing Council, Flower breached Article 2.3 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which relates to the "use of an audible obscenity during a match."

The controversy erupted during the 17.2 over of the innings after RCB were denied a boundary following a third-umpire review. Flower, accompanied by mentor Dinesh Karthik, approached the fourth umpire to protest the decision.

While Karthik escaped punishment, the IPL stated that Flower's conduct during the exchange crossed acceptable limits.

In an official statement, the league confirmed that the former Zimbabwe captain admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by match referee Amit Sharma.

Despite the controversy on the sidelines, RCB held their nerve to register a thrilling two-wicket victory off the final ball and climb to the top of the IPL points table with their seventh win of the campaign.

Veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar emerged as the hero of the night with an outstanding all-round performance. After picking up four wickets earlier in the match, Bhuvneshwar smashed a crucial six in the final over to seal victory for Bengaluru.

Needing nine runs from the last three balls, Bhuvneshwar cleared the boundary off Raj Angad Bawa to swing momentum decisively in RCB's favour. "That six is something I'll definitely remember," Bhuvneshwar said after the match. "I've taken wickets many times before, but hitting that six gave me a different kind of enjoyment."

The experienced seamer currently leads the Purple Cap standings with 21 wickets, marking the fourth time in his IPL career he has crossed the 20-wicket mark in a single season.

MI's inconsistency cost us dearly this season: Jayawardene

RAIPUR

Mahela Jayawardene admitted Mumbai Indians were "not good enough" this season after their crushing two-wicket defeat against Royal Challengers Bengaluru officially ended their playoff hopes in IPL 2026.

The five-time champions suffered their eighth defeat in 11 matches, with inconsistency proving to be their biggest downfall throughout the campaign. "It's disappointing. We had our opportunities, but we were not good enough and not consistent enough with both bat and ball," Jayawardene said.

Mumbai appeared to have control at different stages before failing to defend a modest total in the final over. Rookie all-rounder Raj Angad Bawa, bowling his first IPL over, was entrusted with defending the target after all frontline bowlers had completed their quotas.

The youngster began nervously, conceding a wide and a no-ball before dismissing Romario Shepherd. However, another wide and a decisive six from Bhuvneshwar Kumar sealed victory for Bengaluru off the final delivery.

Five-time champions Mumbai Indians crashed out after another heartbreaking last-ball defeat in Raipur

Explaining the decision, Jayawardene said the side had exhausted all experienced bowling options. "We had no senior bowler left. Suryakumar backed Raj because he has shown good execution in practice sessions," he said.

The former Sri Lanka captain sympathised with the youngster for struggling under pressure but praised the team's fighting spirit. "It was a game of fine margins. We probably should have executed better at the end," he added. Jayawardene also rejected suggestions that the Raipur pitch was responsible for Mumbai's modest total of 166. He pointed instead to untimely dismissals after the side looked set for a stronger finish.

He further revealed that injuries and frequent unavailability of players disrupted team combinations throughout the season. Despite criticism surrounding senior stars Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav, Jayawardene defended the experienced core, insisting their commitment and effort remained unquestionable despite Mumbai's disappointing campaign.

Fifteen government department teams joined journalists for unique friendly cricket tournament in Hassan

Hassan hosts friendly cricket tournament between journalists and govt departments

HASSAN

A friendly cricket tournament jointly organised by the Hassan District Working Journalists' Association and various departments of the district administration was inaugurated in Hassan with enthusiastic participation from journalists and government officials.

The tournament was formally launched by Karnataka Working Journalists' Association state president Shivananda Tagadur, who inaugurated the event by taking strike with the bat. A total of 15 teams representing different government departments participated in the sporting event along with members of the Hassan District Working Journalists' Association, making it a first-of-its-kind initiative in the district.

Several office-bearers and members of the journalists' association attended the inaugural ceremony. Those present included Karnataka Working Journalists' Association vice-president H.B. Madanagowda, Hassan District Working Journalists' Association president J.R. Kenchegowda, vice-presidents N. Nanjundegowda and G. Prakash, general secretary K.G. Suresh, state executive committee member K.P.S. Pramod, and office-bearers Harish, Prakash Benalavadi and Khushwant. Former district president Ballu Gopal and Udaykumar were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Shivananda Tagadur highlighted the importance of sports in reducing mental stress and promoting healthy interaction among professionals. He said journalists, who often work under pressure, should actively participate in sports and recreational activities to maintain mental well-being.

Tagadur appreciated the organisers for bringing together journalists and government employees through sports and described the initiative as a positive step towards strengthening cordial relationships between the media fraternity and various government departments. The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation and a lively atmosphere, with organisers expressing hope of making it an annual event in Hassan.

Poor fielding cost us crucial game, admits LSG skipper Pant

CHENNAI

Rishabh Pant blamed poor fielding and costly dropped catches for Lucknow Super Giants's five-wicket defeat to Chennai Super Kings, a result that officially ended their IPL 2026 playoff hopes.

LSG suffered their eighth loss in 11 matches despite posting a competitive 203 for eight after a sensational innings from Josh Inglis. The Australian batter smashed 85 runs in a blistering knock that powered Lucknow to a dominant start at the MA Chidambaram Stadium.

However, Chennai chased down the target in 19.2 overs, thanks largely to a stunning assault from young batter Urvil Patel, who hammered 65 off just 23 deliveries to put the hosts firmly in control.

"It was a great game and we knew there would be pressure in the powerplay here in Chennai," Pant said after the defeat. "I felt we had enough runs on the board, but our fielding standards have to improve. We dropped too many catches and that hurt us badly."

Pant praised both Inglis and Urvil for their outstanding knocks and said the contest remained evenly poised for long periods. "The team showed character to come back into the game after the powerplay," he added.

The Lucknow captain admitted his side had aimed for a slightly bigger total after their explosive start. "The way we began, we would have liked a few more runs. We thought 200-210 was a good target, but they got off to a flyer," he said.

Pant also explained the decision to hand the final over to Aiden Markram instead of Shahbaz Ahmed while defending 10 runs in the last six balls.

"It was a tough call, but we backed experience. Markram has bowled in these situations before and we trusted him," Pant said. Markram, however, conceded two decisive sixes to Shivam Dube as Chennai completed a memorable chase and kept their campaign alive.

Dhoni's advice inspired Urvil Patel's record-breaking IPL knock for CSK

CHENNAI

Urvil Patel revealed that a valuable conversation with former Chennai Super Kings captain MS Dhoni played a major role in his sensational record-equalling half-century against Lucknow Super Giants in IPL 2026.

The young batter produced a breathtaking assault at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, smashing 65 off just 23 balls with eight towering sixes during Chennai's successful chase. His explosive knock included a 13-ball fifty, equalling the fastest half-century in IPL history. Urvil also created another unique record by becoming the first batter in IPL history to hit six sixes within the opening eight deliveries of an innings.

After the match, the youngster credited Dhoni for helping him overcome self-doubt following a series of promising starts that ended in disappointment earlier this season.

"When I got out early in a couple of matches, I spoke with Mahi bhai in the dressing room," Urvil said. "I asked him what I should do to convert my starts into big innings."

According to Urvil, Dhoni offered a simple but powerful piece of advice.

"He told me he had no doubt about my skills and that the only doubts were in my own mind. He asked me to stay clear mentally and focus on hitting the right ball to the right areas," he explained. The reassurance, Urvil said, helped him trust his natural attacking instincts and play freely.

"I will always thank him for sharing that wisdom. I think he will be very happy with this innings," he added. The emotional knock also carried special significance for the youngster, who dedicated the innings to his father after finally registering his maiden IPL fifty.

INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE 2026...

Delhi Capitals beat Punjab Kings by 3 wicket at Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on Monday

POINT TABLE

TEAM	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers Bengaluru	11	7	4	0	14	1.103
Sunrisers Hyderabad	11	7	4	0	14	0.737
Gujarat Titans	11	7	4	0	14	0.228
Punjab Kings	11	6	4	1	13	0.448
Chennai Super Kings	11	6	5	0	12	0.185
Rajasthan Royals	11	6	5	0	12	0.082
Delhi Capitals	12	5	7	0	10	-0.993
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	-0.169
Mumbai Indians	11	3	8	0	6	-0.585
Lucknow Super Giants	11	3	8	0	6	-0.920

RASHID BACK TO HIS DEVASTATING BEST, SAYS GT COACH HAYDEN

AHMEDABAD

Matthew Hayden believes Rashid Khan is "arguably back to his best" after the spinner played a starring role in Gujarat Titans' emphatic 77-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.

Gujarat produced a complete performance in Ahmedabad, piling up a massive 229 before bowling Rajasthan out for 152. Batting coach Hayden said it was the first time this season the Titans had successfully combined all aspects of their game.

"I think it's a very good team and a dangerous bowling side," Hayden said after the match. "Tonight was probably the first game where, as a coach, I felt we put all departments together really nicely."

Hayden praised Gujarat's powerful top-order batting and intimidating bowling attack, calling the side one of the most balanced teams in the competition.

The former Australian opener reserved special praise for Rashid, who claimed four wickets and troubled Rajasthan's middle order with his pace and sharp turn.

"Rashid is an X-factor in this competition and he is now arguably back to his best," Hayden said. "You could see the zip off the wicket and the speed through the air. Even Donovan Ferreira, who has been in great touch, failed to pick that leg-spinner."

Hayden highlighted one delivery in particular, bowled at around 110 kph, which he described as "a beauty" capable of dismissing most batters in world cricket.

He also praised the pace duo of Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada for generating high pace and pressure with the new ball. "Velocity matters in T20 cricket," Hayden said. "Bowlers touching 150 kph are difficult to attack consistently. The best teams have strong defensive bowling units and we've got that covered nicely."

Meanwhile, Rajasthan Royals bowling coach Shane Bond admitted his side was simply outplayed.

"We misread the pitch a little and weren't good enough tonight," Bond said. "Now we probably need to win at least two or maybe all three of our remaining matches to stay alive in the tournament."

City Hilights (English Daily) published by P. Sunil Kumar (Publisher) on behalf of Immaculate Broadcasting Consortium World News (P) Ltd., No. 18, JRV Court, Queens's Road, Bengaluru – 560001 and printed at Manipal Media Network Limited Opp. Govt School, Kempalinganahalli, Near Kunigal Cross, Nelamangala TQ, Bangalore Rural Dist. -562123, Printed at No-7/2 plot no.CA-3/1,28(p)&29(p) Kapanoor 2nd Stage Industrial Area Kapnoor Village Kalaburagi -585104. Printed at S. J. R. V. Printers, No. 208 Plot No. B-019 KSSIDC Industrial Area, Irfan Ahamed Khan Pathan, 4th Main Road Gamanagatti, Hubballi-Dharwad – 580025. and Elegant Offset Printers Pvt. Ltd. No. 5-61/1, Shed No. M-6, Yeyyadi Industrial Estate, Yeyyadi, Mangalore - 575 008. (RNI No: KARENG / 2015 / 63243), Regd. No. BGGPO-2581/2017-2019 Posted at Bengaluru PSO-560026 Email - cityhilights.news@gmail.com Phone: 080-41209042. Copyright. All rights reserved. Reproduction without permission is prohibited.